

PLAN IS AFOOT TO SIDE TRACK ST. JOHN?

**Report That C. P. R. Wants to Run
Empresses to Halifax Only**

**Would Require Running Rights Over Intercolonial and Good
Traffic Arrangements, Also Terminal Facilities at Nova
Scotia Port—Much Secrecy About the Proposal at
Ottawa.**

Ottawa, Jan. 25.—The report is current here tonight, and it is generally believed to be well founded, that the C. P. R. is negotiating for running rights over the Intercolonial to Halifax.

It is said that it desires to break the mail contract and have the Empresses run to Halifax only.

A prominent Maritime Province Liberal said tonight that the matter was under consideration, but nothing definite reached.

How Halifax Views It.

(Halifax Chronicle Editorial.)

The Chronicle is in a position to announce that negotiations, fraught with importance to Halifax, are in progress between the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Dominion Government looking to the extension of that Company's lines to this City. The C. P. R., we are now recognizing that the successful operation of its transatlantic mail passenger service, direct connection with Halifax is essential, and as already stated in these columns, it has approached the Government with a view to securing greater traffic privileges over the Intercolonial Railway from St. John to Halifax than it now enjoys. The large traffic which has been carried by the Empress boats has convinced the Company that the transatlantic passenger business via the Canadian route is capable of great development, and the transport of the mails during the present season has demonstrated that the Halifax route is incomparably the best not merely for the country at large but for the operating company.

In short it is recognized that the ocean passenger business can be most successfully developed by having direct rail connection at Halifax with the West. It is inevitable that the mails and high class passenger traffic will come to this port, and it is argued, that such traffic with the West cannot be developed, in competition with the New York line, if it has to pay tribute to two or more railway systems. The C. P. R. is accordingly anxious, as we understand it, to obtain running rights over the Intercolonial and terminal facilities at Halifax for the Empresses and is ready to negotiate as to terms for such traffic privileges as it desires. The exact nature of the concessions, which are sought, has not been disclosed, but it is probable that they will involve the running of Canadian Pacific trains to the steamer's side. This, of course, is a matter which rests with Mr. Emmerson, Minister of Railways, and if such privileges are granted, it must be on fair and equitable terms and without prejudice to the Intercolonial. If satisfactory arrangements can be made to bring the C. P. R.'s fast steamship and railway systems into direct connection at this port, and the rights of all concerned are properly safeguarded, Nova Scotia cannot fail to profit from the Halifax Canadian Pacific interest in Halifax.

GEORGE P. GRAHAM CHOSEN LEADER OF ONTARIO OPPOSITION

Toronto, Jan. 25.—At a caucus of the Liberal members of the legislature this morning, George Perry Graham, member for Brockville, was unanimously selected as leader of the opposition for the present session. Others nominated for the leadership were R. Harcourt, A. G. MacKay and E. H. Preston. All retired in favor of Mr. Graham, whose selection was made unanimous amidst great enthusiasm.

The new leader and other nominees made brief speeches, expressing confidence in the Liberal cause. At the close of the caucus Mr. Graham made the following statement:

"After full consultation with the members of the opposition and understanding their views, as well as the views of the Liberal party throughout the province, I have accepted the leadership on the explicit understanding that neither my action nor the action of the opposition here in any way interferes with the free action of the great Liberal party throughout the province as to the question of leadership. Personally I am in favor of a limited number of representatives from all the constituencies in this province to deal with this question, and others affecting the interests of the party and province."

SENATOR LOVITT GRANTED NEW TRIAL

**Two of the Nova Scotia Appeal Judges
Favored Acquitting Former Bank
President.**

Halifax, N. S., Jan. 27.—In the supreme court on Saturday judgment was given in Hon. Senator Lovitt's case, the court ordering that the accused be given a new trial.

Chief Justice Weatherbe and Justice Meagher were for the acquittal of Senator Lovitt, and Justice Russell, Graham and Russell, on the other hand, deciding that though there was not sufficient ground on which to base an acquittal, yet the accused was entitled to a new trial.

Sensor Lovitt was found guilty last September of wilfully and knowingly making false returns to the government with respect to the financial status of the Bank of Yarmouth, now defunct.

FRENCH PRESS ON GERMAN ELECTIONS

Paris, Jan. 27.—Examining the result of the German elections from an international standpoint, practically the entire French press unites in regarding it as a distinct endorsement of German imperialism and therefore of the highest importance and disquieting, especially to Great Britain and France.

SLOW PROGRESS IN THAW TRIAL

**Only Seven Jurymen Secured
Out of 107 Talesmen
Examined**

**PRISONER CHIPPER
Assists Counsel in Selecting Men to
Decide His Fate—Much Interested
in Reporters' Work—Wife and
Mother Present—All Kinds of Ex-
cuses to Dodge Jury Service.**

New York, Jan. 25.—Fifty-one talesmen were examined in rapid fire order in the effort to complete the jury which will try Harry K. Thaw for killing Stanford White, and at the end of the day's session two names had been added to the jury roll, making seven in all. One hundred and one talesmen have thus far been examined and five jurors remain to be chosen.

That there is increasing difficulty in finding men who are willing or competent to serve was evidenced by the fact that on the first day of the trial three jurors were sworn from among nineteen talesmen, one of them being excused subsequently by the court. On the second day it required the winnowing of more than one-fourth of the entire selected panel of 200 men to secure two members of the necessary twelve.

One of the new jurors is Harold R. Faire, a printer and publisher, who is the only unmarried man thus far selected. Faire is not more than 28 or 30 years old, smooth shaven and has excellent features. The second new juror is Malcolm S. Fraser, a dealer in underwear. He is perhaps forty years old and is married. Early in Mr. Fraser's examination it became apparent from the manner of his answers that he would make a juror satisfactory to the court.

This panel, as it grows, impresses the followers of the case more and more favorably and it is looked upon as being composed of as high a type of citizens as any jury in this jurisdiction.

Many Excuses.

Excuses framed by the talesmen to avoid jury duty in the case are growing more varied each day. Man after man declared today that his opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the accused was firmly fixed as to admit of no change by reason of any testimony that might be adduced. District Attorney Jerome tried to convince the talesmen that newspaper stories were not the same as sworn testimony before a court, but his efforts were generally unsuccessful and challenges for cause were made by the prosecution.

Of the fifty-one talesmen examined to day only three were peremptorily rejected. The state challenged a talesman named Nesbit, who stated, however, that he was in no way related to Mrs. Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, wife of the defendant. The calling of Mr. Nesbit and his examination attracted much interest, and a large personal being young Mrs. Thaw herself.

The defence used two peremptory challenges, one to relieve from duty Harry M. Fletcher, who declared that while he would carry an opinion into the jury box he was sure he could lay it aside upon hearing the evidence, and the other to an impartial verdict. The defence challenged Fletcher in their own right only after Justice Fitzgerald had overruled a challenge for cause.

The second peremptory challenge by the defence was directed against Sol. N. Levy, tobacco dealer.

THAW INTERESTED IN REPORTERS.

Harry Thaw seemed much amused by the trial today and for the first time since the trial began he was seen in the courtroom, where he was limited, however, to talesmen and newspaper writers. Thaw seemed especially interested in the reporters' tables and tried once to read the large typed account of his trial in a paper one of the writers was scanning.

Another feature of the day was the number of talesmen who had known Stanford White. At one time three men in succession asserted that they had been so well acquainted with the dead architect as to make them unsuitable as jurors.

There will be no session tomorrow, the court adjourning late today until Monday morning. It is not customary for supreme court justices to sit on Saturday in this city. In the meantime the seven jurors will be in the custody of bailiffs.

John to the best of his ability. I could tell of several instances of Mr. Blair's efforts in this direction. One occasion we had been informed that a number of horses, destined for South Africa, were to be shipped through Portland (Me.) I knew that Mr. Blair was in town at the time, so the matter was laid before him. I saw Mr. Blair at his office and recited the facts of the case. The minister turned around and remarked: "I do all I can." The result was the horses were shipped through St. John. I am very sorry to hear of his death," concluded Mr. Jarvis, "and he will be a very great loss."

HON. ANDREW G. BLAIR, STRICKEN WITH HEART FAILURE, DIED SUDDENLY.

(Continued from page 3)

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John A. Chesley.

John A. Chesley, first became acquainted with Mr. Blair twenty-five years ago, when attending at Fredericton on delegations from the common council, said

that on such occasions he found that Mr. Blair always had the interests of St. John at heart. He received the delegations with much kindness and courtesy and always showed every possible consideration for their wishes. From his opinion formed at the time, Mr. Chesley said he felt convinced it would not be long before Mr. Blair would become one of the most prominent men in New Brunswick, if not in the Dominion.

He was a keen debater, and while in the local house placed a great deal of important and useful legislation on the statute books. He had always regarded Mr. Blair as holding broad-minded views. On public matters he was aggressive and forcible. He was an able lawyer and in disposition generous and kindly. There was nothing in his make-up which would alienate a man. He made friends wherever he went and held them. As regards his most important work, Mr. Chesley said that Mr. Blair's railway commission bill was a piece of legislation which would always be a credit to his memory. His death was a public loss to the country.

D. Mullin, K. O.

D. Mullin, K. O., president of the St. John Law Society, said: "It was a great shock to me to hear of the sudden death of Hon. A. G. Blair. One of the greatest Canadians has passed away. He was a man of power and brilliant intellect and with a charming personality, and we shall greatly miss his commanding presence."

Joseph A. Likely.

Joseph A. Likely said that he had known Mr. Blair for a good many years. He was the best representative St. John ever had, and did more good for this city than any other minister we ever had. I knew him well. He was a good sound business man, and his loss will be very much felt.

Alderman Rowan.

Ald. A. M. Rowan was also much affected at the death of Mr. Blair. "He was a very able man," Mr. Rowan said, "and it will be a big loss. He was a very genial and kindly man."

A. O. Skinner.

It was very much shocked," said Mr. Skinner, "to hear of Mr. Blair's sudden death, and I am sure the whole community will be, as all who knew him personally and by his career as a public man must feel that Canada has lost one of her best citizens and a man who gave his life to serve his country."

"Personally I knew him well and always found him to be a fatherly and a great help in his power to do so. I feel the Liberal party has lost a good supporter, and his death will be a great loss to the political life, the party will feel his loss in a practical way."

"I feel deep sorrow has come to his family by the loss of a father, a good husband, and the sympathy of all will go out to them in their great bereavement."

Hon. James Holly.

Speaking of the death of Hon. Mr. Blair, Mr. Holly said last evening he had known him all his life. In his judgment he was a gentleman and a gentlemanly man. He felt Mr. Blair's death very keenly.

W. G. Scovill.

W. G. Scovill, when told the news, was greatly shocked by it. He spoke of his personal acquaintance with Mr. Blair, stretching over a period of twenty-five years, and of the strong personal magnetism which marked him and of the fact that Mr. Blair always had a large personal following in his public life.

Mr. Blair looked upon him as one of New Brunswick's ablest sons, if not one of the ablest. He was a man of great personal magnetism and a great shock throughout the land and a gap would be left such as would not be filled for many years.

John Keefe.

John Keefe said that this province had sustained a great loss in the death of Hon. A. G. Blair, who in private life was in all respects a gentleman, while in public affairs his marked ability entitled him to rank with great representative New Brunswick men of former times.

C. P. Baker.

C. P. Baker said he had heard the news with a great deal of surprise, as yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock he was speaking over the telephone to Allan Randolph, of Fredericton, and that gentleman informed him that he had heard of Mr. Blair's death an hour or so before. Mr. Baker said he was very well acquainted with and held a high opinion of Mr. Blair, who was in all respects a gentleman. In public life he had few if any equals in point of ability.

A. P. Barnhill.

"I have been deeply pained," said Mr. Barnhill, "by the news of the death of the Hon. Mr. Blair. In connection with his death, I feel that professional friends in this province, I regard his death not only as a great personal loss but as a great loss to the province. He was a man of great personal magnetism and a great shock throughout the land and a gap would be left such as would not be filled for many years."

Robert Blockerlike, M. P.

Recalling Mr. Blair's memorable speech in the house of commons, Robert Blockerlike, M. P., for St. Lawrence, said: "It was one of the most powerful speeches I ever listened to. He had notes, of course, but the speech was extempore, otherwise he would never have produced the effect he did. He proceeded from one point to another, sequentially, building up his re-

many years, I am greatly grieved by the sad news and I desire to express my sincere sympathy with his family."

Tributes from Old Associates.

Fredericton, N. B., Jan. 25.—(Special)—J. H. Barry, K. O., who was seen by a Telegraph representative this evening seemed to be deeply affected by the death of his old friend and former partner. He had been intimately associated with Mr. Blair for many years and knew him to be a man possessed of great force and high character. He had plenty of native ability and was undoubtedly a strong man in politics. He also ranked high as a lawyer.

W. T. Whitehead, M. P., said that his acquaintance with Mr. Blair dated back a period of thirty-five years. "He was," said Mr. Whitehead, "perhaps the best friend I had in the world, apart from my own family. Mr. Blair was a true man in every sense of the word, a great statesman and a great lawyer and his death is a loss to Canada."

Judge Wilson, who was for years Mr. Blair's colleague in the legislature, spoke in feeling terms of his death. He did not think that New Brunswick had ever lost a more capable man. A. G. Blair and no public man had done more to advance its interests. "His political life was a stormy one but he was not a man who ever called for quarter in an emergency," said Mr. Wilson, "and he was one of the brightest minds in Canada goes out."

News Starletts Moncton.

Moncton, Jan. 25.—(Special)—The news of the death of Hon. A. G. Blair was a great shock to the citizens. Deceased had many years personal friends and no part of the province probably does his sudden death cause more sincere regret than in Moncton.

News Shocks Amherst Admirers.

Amherst, N. S., Jan. 25.—(Special)—The news of the death of Hon. A. G. Blair was received here with profound sorrow, as he had a great many warm admirers in Amherst. Being so closely connected with New Brunswick, there were many here during his active political life who were supporters of him.

Clergymen's Tributes.

Fredericton, Jan. 27.—(Special)—The body of the late Hon. A. G. Blair was taken to Ottawa last evening in General Pottinger's private car attached to the C. P. R. express. A short service for the family was conducted at the house of the late Blair's son, Mr. Walter Blair, by Rev. William MacDonald, pastor of the Presbyterian church. Although the funeral was really a private one, a large number of prominent citizens followed the body to the station. Those who accompanied the body to Ottawa were Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Blair, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Whitehead and Miss Mary Thompson.

Flags were flying at half mast yesterday in the city of Fredericton, and a large number of flags were seen on the streets of the city.

In the city churches today, references were made from the pulpits to the sudden death of Mr. Blair, and tributes were paid to his memory.

At the service this evening Bishop Richardson spoke eloquently of the life and character of the deceased and referred to the great loss the country has sustained by his death.

In St. Dunstan's church Rev. F. L. Carter paid a graceful tribute to the late Blair, who was a public man and his remarks were followed with the greatest interest.

Reference to Mr. Blair's death was also made at the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches.

THAW ENRAGED AT NEWSPAPERS

**Reference to Family Dissensions About
His Case Vexed the Young Man So
Much That He Refused to Attend
Divine Service—Jury Has the Best**

New York, Jan. 27.—Harry K. Thaw, who trial for the murder of Stanford White will be continued tomorrow, was so far as they indicated that there was discussion among members of his family or counsel displeased him greatly. A note of inquiry was torn to bits unread and the messenger was instructed to say that the prisoner desired neither to see nor to hear from newspaper men.

When the hour for divine worship arrived, for the first time in several months he declined the usual invitation to attend.

The seven jurors who, under guard of five officers of the court squad, occupy a suite on the third floor of the Broadway Central Hotel, passed an uneventful day. Unable to agree upon a verdict which might attend and not being permitted to separate, they compromised by deciding to spend the morning hours at the hotel. In the afternoon they were taken for a drive in Central Park.

Sunday papers from which all reference to the Thaw trial had been clipped, were provided for the jurors. All were in good health and spirits.

They expressed themselves as well pleased with the arrangements made for their comfort.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bear the
Signature of *Dr. J. C. Watson*

The Horse Died After Rescue.

Those familiar with the condition of the ice on inland lakes are aware of the great danger lying in the numerous "bursts," as they are called by country people. These are large cracks in the ice, caused by pressure, and sometimes are several feet wide.

FOUR BOYS MET HORRIBLE DEATHS

**Burned to a Crisp in Dover, N. H.,
Cotton Mill Fire**

**Five Hundred Operatives in the Building When Flames
Broke Out—Thrilling Escapes and Daring Rescues Effected—Several Injured—Monetary Loss Over
\$500,000.**

Dover, N. H., Jan. 26.—Dover's most disastrous fire which occurred today cost the lives of four and probably five of her boy mill operatives and a property loss exceeding half a million dollars in the burning of her largest factory building, known as Mill No. 1, of the Cocheco Mill Co. The bodies of the four boys, charred beyond all hope of identification, were found this afternoon in the midst of the smoking ruins and as they were known to be missing, it was believed that another body will be found.

The missing boys are:
Charles Cogswell, aged 16.
Anthony Francis, 25, burned and cut.
John Nicholson, aged 15.
Hester, aged 15.

The operatives injured were as follows:
James Ashton, aged 45, both legs fractured by jumping.
William Turner, aged 50, hip broken by jumping.
Theodore Blancos, 24, hands burned and lacerated.

James Pappas, 25, burned and bruised.
Anthony Francis, 25, burned and cut.
John Hester, 40, ankle broken by breaking rope on which he was descending.

Several of the injured were hurt while saving their lives by climbing down ropes which they found near the windows and one of which they tied to the machinery.

Five Hundred in Peril.

That more lives were not sacrificed in the disaster was the wonderment of all as the cause of the catastrophe tonight by the people of Dover. In a flash the fire broke out in the mill not long after the 500 or more operatives had assembled this morning for their day's work, and in a moment it seemed, had swept through the structure. An appalling scene at once fell upon the working people, men, women and children; yet almost all escaped safely from the doomed factory.

Friction from a belt generating sparks which lodged in a mass of cotton quickly created sheets of flames on the third floor of the factory from which the operatives ran to the stairways.

All in the factory soon knew of the fire

moreless argument. The chief thing was this—the speech was sustained at a single high level. It was ruthless in the accuracy with which it pierced the armor of the government. The man knew his subject. He had given much thought to railway problems in this country. He was, therefore, in a superior position and the fact that the government had ignored him in the mapping of the project of the Grand Trunk Pacific gave to his speech the note of passion, of personal feeling, which made it intensely interesting. Sir Wilfrid was as pale as death.

The prime minister says that the country cannot wait, thundered Mr. Blair, and he said that the country cannot wait, this was the climax. The sensation produced was the most intense ever witnessed in the house. Well, he is gone, and large things seem very small in death. I liked him very much. He was a strong man, with a mind for organization and construction and he will be much missed."

SWETENHAM OFFERS HIS RESIGNATION

**People of Kingston Relieved of All
Rates and Taxes for 15 Months.**

Kingston, Jamaica, Jan. 27.—It is understood that Governor Swettenham tendered his resignation to Lord Elgin, Secretary for the Colonies, a few days ago in consequence of the Admiral Davis incident and his inability to solve the problem created by the earthquake of the day the governor visited the temporary offices of the municipal council and informed the vice-chairman, who is acting in the absence of Mayor Tan, that he had decided to relieve the people of Kingston from all rates and taxes for a period of fifteen months, beginning the first of February. This announcement has been received with pleasure by the residents of the city, who will be encouraged to start the work of rebuilding as early as possible.

The most Rev. Enos Nuttall, Archbishop of the West Indies, in an interview, said that the municipal council was unable to deal with the present extraordinary emergency and that he had decided to appoint a commissioner with full powers during the period of reconstruction. He also declared that in addition to the generous contributions from the United States, Canada and elsewhere it was absolutely necessary to obtain an imperial loan and a large imperial loan to rebuild Kingston, more particularly in view of the attitude of the English fire insurance companies, which have disclaimed all liability for losses sustained during the earthquake and fire.

NEW YORK CATHOLICS PROTEST ABOUT FRENCH CHURCH LAW

New York, Jan. 27.—The Hippodrome, the largest playhouse in the city, was filled tonight when Catholics, lay and clerical, of the archdiocese of New York, met to publicly protest against the new French church law. The action of the government of France in divorcing church and state was sharply attacked by several speakers while some 4,000 listened with approval.

The speakers, in addition to the chairman, included Archbishop John M. Farley, James and State Supreme Court Justice Francis Fitzgerald.

At the conclusion of the speaking the audience voted to send to the Pope in the name of the Archbishop, the following cablegram:

"Upwards of 20,000 Catholics of New York tonight protest against religious persecution of Catholics in France and send loving greeting and sympathy to His Holiness, Pope Pius X."

POPE'S RIVAL WANTS HIS POWERS RECOGNIZED

Paris, Jan. 27.—Monsieur Villatte, head of the independent Catholic movement in America, who is now in Paris, has written a letter to the Pope in which he asks that he be recognized as "Archbishop of the Patriarchate of Antioch," of which St. Peter was the founder.

He says he cares nothing about personal vicissitudes but that he does want the recognition of his powers and the ordinations which he expects to make in France before returning to America unquestioned.

Senator Dobson Dead.

Toronto, Jan. 27.—(Special)—Senator John Dobson died at his residence at Lindsay (Ont.) Sunday afternoon after a long illness, aged 82 years.

James V. Russell has purchased the Sutherland property in Brussels street and will fit up a store in it for his business.



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