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THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

VOLUME 1, No. 155.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1914.

PRICE:—1 CENT.

PUBLIC ATTENTION IS NOW CENTRED ON THE IMPORTANT CONFERENCE MEETING IN BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Speaker of the House of Commons Presides Over the Gathering Which Represents the Rival British Political Parties Concerned in Home Rule Question—King's Speech at the Opening of the Conference—Much Diverse Criticism of His Majesty For Interfering in the matter

London, July 21.—So deep is the interest taken by the public in the crisis which has arisen over the Home Rule question that great crowds gathered to-day outside Buckingham Palace to witness the arrival of the various party leaders participating in the conference inaugurated by the King.

The first to put in an appearance was the Rt. Hon. J. W. Lowther, Speaker of the House of Commons, who presides over the conference.

The eight men who represent the various parties came in cars with the exception of Lord Lansdowne, who walked.

Received by King. The King received the statesmen in the chamber of meeting, and shook hands with them all.

This was probably the first time that Messrs. Redmond and Dillon ever exchanged greetings with the King, as it had been the practice of the Nationalist members to remain away from all functions where members of the Commons were likely to be brought into contact with Royalty.

After a brief conversation His Majesty withdrew from the meeting about noon, leaving the representatives to their deliberations.

After being in session for about an hour and a half the conference adjourned until to-morrow.

Many Criticisms. For the first time in his reign King George is being criticized, though respectfully, by some important Liberal newspapers, which express the belief to-day, that, if His Majesty forced the holding of the conference on the Home Rule question, he overstepped his constitutional duty as a limited monarch, and interfered with the rights of Parliament, and the responsibility of the Cabinet.

The Manchester Guardian says that any such transfer of substantive responsibility and initiative, if it has actually taken place is a course to be deprecated.

Profound Misgivings. The Daily News takes a stronger attitude saying that there are profound misgivings in the Liberal benches where impatience at the obstacles put in the pathway of the Government is reaching the breaking point. It asks with growing indignation, whether the story of the past two years is to be the experience of Parliament whenever a Liberal Government is engaged in passing Liberal measures.

The official organ of Labor under the heading of "Buckingham Palace" again denounces the alleged interference of the Throne, and says that the House of Commons and not some private room in the King's Palace is the proper place for a debate to settle political differences.

Liberal Caucus. The Liberal caucus summoned, as one of the leaders put it to "buck up the British Government," was attended by upwards of a hundred Liberal members of the Commons.

A resolution was passed to the effect that its members unwaveringly supported the claims of Ireland, as put forward by the Nationalists, and embodied in the Home Rule Bill.

ner in which you have responded to my summons. It is also a matter for congratulation that the Speaker of the House of Commons has consented to preside over your meetings.

"My intervention at this moment may be regarded as a new departure, but the exceptional circumstances under which you are brought together justify my action.

"For months we have watched with deep misgivings the course of events in Ireland. The trend has been surely and steadily toward an appeal to force and to-day the cry of civil war is on the lips of the most responsible and sober-minded people.

"We have in the past endeavored to act as a civilized example to the world, and to me it is unthinkable as it must be to you that we should be brought to the brink of fratricidal strife upon an issue apparently so capable of adjustment as this you are now asked to consider, if handled in a spirit of generous compromise.

"Gentlemen, you represent in one form or another the vast majority of my subjects at home; you also have a deep interest in my Dominions over seas which are scarcely less concerned in the prompt and friendly settlement of this question. I regard you in this matter as trustees for the honor and peace of all. Your responsibilities, indeed are great; time is short and you will, I know, employ it to the fullest advantage.

"Be patient, earnest, conciliatory in view of the magnitude of the interests at stake. I pray that God in His infinite wisdom may guide you and your deliberations, so that they may result in joy and peace and an honorable settlement.

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GUN TO FORTIFY PANAMA CANAL

Weapon is Fifty Feet Long And Fires a Missile, of a Ton Weight to a Distance of Eleven Miles—Can Pierce Armor 12 Inches Thick

Washington, July 18.—When its breech-loading device has been perfected at Watervliet arsenal, the great 16-inch gun, the biggest piece of ordnance in the world, which has just been shipped from Sandy Hook proving grounds, will be practically ready for service on the Panama canal fortifications.

Some idea may be obtained of the tremendous power of this gun, destined to protect the Pacific entrance to the Panama canal, by the fact that it is fifty feet long, weighs 142 tons and fires a projectile about six feet long. The projectile itself weighs a ton and is discharged by 665 pounds of powder. It requires eight men to carry the powder discharge.

This gun has a maximum range of from 22 to 23 miles. The elevation permitted by its carriage will enable the gun to fire a projectile about 11 miles across the Pacific ocean. It has sufficient power, theoretically, to pierce two feet of the best armor at the muzzle. At 11 miles the gun is calculated to pierce a 12-inch armor plate, or any side armor afloat.

Army ordnance officials believe this gun will be a tremendous instrument of peace, when it is finally in position on the Panama Canal.

Fatal Heat Wave

Boston, Mass., July 18.—Two men died and thirteen were prostrated as a result of the heat yesterday. The temperature did not pass 89, but the humidity was excessive.

Bag Many Sea Lions

Vancouver, July 18.—A party of Skeena River and River Inlet hunters have bagged between 550 and 600 sea-lions. The sea-lions have become so numerous in the vicinity of Rovers Inlet and the mouth of the Skeent River as to threaten the life of the salmon fishing industry.

BEAR MOTHERS A LOST BABY

Two-Year-Old Boy Was Found Playing With the Little Cubs

Fifield, Wis., July 18.—An old black bear and her two cubs played the part of mother and playmates for Baby Ball, the two-year-old son of a farmer living near Fifield. A couple of days ago the little boy was found nestling up close to the cubs in their brush bed, hidden in a patch of briars.

"The big doggies play, but Baby's hungry," was the greeting the little fellow gave the men who found him. The child was starving apparently, but was not suffering from exposure. It was evident to the men who found him that he had been kept alive by the warmth of the bears' bodies.

The child wandered from the home of his parents Sunday. A patch of cloth from the blue rompers he wore was found to-day on a bush near the roadside. Investigation and a search further into the woods disclosed the bear's den and the child sleeping with two cubs.

Bourbon Prince Weds English Lady

London, July 17.—A romantic courtship culminated yesterday in the marriage of Prince Louis of Bourbon, cousin to the King of Spain, and Miss Beatrice Harrington, a pretty London girl. The wedding was celebrated quietly in a London church, without the knowledge of the Royal Family of Spain.

King's Speech. King George, in receiving the conference at Buckingham Palace, made the following brief speech: "It is with a feeling of satisfaction and hopefulness that I receive you here to-day and I thank you for the man-

NARROW ESCAPE OF FISHERMEN LOST IN A FOG

Wisely Remained At Anchor And Eventually Were Picked up by a Ship

After an absence of nearly twelve weeks, schr. Bay State, Captain Normal A. Ross, has arrived at Gloucester from halibuting.

Two of the crew, William Martel and Hugh Ross, had a most narrow call two weeks ago on the Grand Banks, when they were lost from their craft and after being rescued were returned to the schooner again.

Caught in Fog

All dories were out hauling their trawls, when a short time afterwards one of those dreaded fogs, accompanied by a nasty sea and wind set in, so that they could not see their craft. All the dories found the vessel but the one containing Ross and Martel.

The men finding themselves astray, wisely decided to lay at anchor, reckoning that the vessel would do the same until the fog lifted. They threw over what halibut they had aboard to save the dory from being swamped. It was about midnight that the most welcome glimmer of a light was discerned by Martel. Both men pulled up anchor and quickly rowed in the direction of the craft.

Cries Heard

They shouted loudly and their cries were heard by those on board the vessel, which proved to be the brig, Julia Third, of Lisbon. Just as they reached the brig, and were about to be hauled aboard a giant wave struck the dory, throwing both into the sea. One of them grabbed the painter and the other a coaming from the dory which floated bottom up.

They were quickly rescued and taken aboard, where they were given dry clothing, warm drinks and food and put to bed.

Martel and Ross were pretty well used up from their experience. As soon as the fog abated the men were transferred to the Bay State, which was located by the brig.—Gloucester Paper.

Buy Trawler

The English fish trawler Coroner has been purchased by Letore Brothers, of Pocom, who will send her to the Grand Banks, making St. Pierre her headquarters.

Docks To-morrow

The French banking schooner Mascotte, Capt. Thomas, which arrived in port yesterday in a leaky condition, will go on the dry dock to-morrow for repairs.

HEARTY WELCOME TO REV. BARTLETT AT SYDNEY, C.B.

Epworth League Held a Reception in Honor of Their New Pastor

PRESENTED HIM WITH ADDRESS

One of Mr. Bartlett's Ancestors Formerly in Charge Of This Church

A reception of welcome was given in honor of Rev. and Mr. Bartlett by the Epworth League of Jubilee Methodist Church last evening, says The Sydney Record of July 18, and a most enjoyable evening was spent between the new pastor and the members of Jubilee congregation.

The school room of the church was well filled and a hearty welcome extended to Rev. and Mrs. Bartlett, both by the Society and the members of the congregation.

The welcome of the society took the form of an address which was replied to in happy terms by Mr. Bartlett and at the close of the programme the members of the congregation were introduced to their new pastor and his wife by the officers of the society.

An interesting programme of music and literary selection took up the first part of the evening. The programme numbers were: Solo, Mrs. Duchemin; reading, Mrs. Liscombe; duet, Misses Fletcher; piano selection, Miss Burchell; solo, Mrs. Strong; violin selection, Miss Burns; reading, Mrs. O. A. Lewis, and at the conclusion of this part of the evening's entertainment, H. A. Frowde, president of the Epworth League, read the address of welcome to Rev. and Mrs. Bartlett, as follows:

The Address

The Epworth League of Jubilee Methodist Church are pleased to have this opportunity of extending to you and your family a hearty welcome to the membership of the League and the Congregation of the Church.

We are desirous at this time, that you should quickly get to know all our people, and so avoid any thoughts of regret that may be caused by your leaving the happy associations of your former home.

We also wish to put ourselves in your hands for service of whatever kind you may direct, and we trust that our joint efforts may result in a large advance in the spiritual and social life of Jubilee Church. On behalf of the League.

The address was signed H. A. Frowde, President; and J. J. Munn, Secretary.

The Reply

Rev. Mr. Bartlett, in his reply, and after thanking the League for their reception of himself and Mrs. Bartlett, spoke of the work of the League and of interest in church affairs generally, and expressed a hope that the work of the church would prosper well in the future as it had in the past.

In this connection, Mr. Bartlett made reference to the fact that his great-great-grandfather was one of the first pastors of Jubilee Methodist Church and he remarked: "You see I am in the direct line of apostolic succession.

The final item on the programme was ice cream and cake served by the ladies, after which "God Save the King" was sung and a very enjoyable evening closed.

The clergyman referred to by Rev. Mr. Bartlett as his ancient predecessor was Rev. John Snowball, who occupied the pulpit from 1834 to 1836.

KICKED A BOY; WAS ARRESTED

Last evening after the football game a man named Roache was leaving the field when a number of young lads started making fun at him. He ran after the lads and in frightening them accidentally kicked a lad named Comfort in the side.

A large gathering crowded around the boy who was not seriously injured. Const. Keefe was present and arrested Roache.

READ THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

STEPHANO MEETS SLEEPING WHALE

And the Startled Leirathan Sprinkles Passengers with A Whisk of His Tail

New York, July 16.—Most of the passengers of the steamer Stephano, which arrived today from Halifax had an unexpected sea water bath yesterday noon.

The Stephano was running through a thick mist when Captain Smith noticed off the bow a large black object which he thought was a partly submerged derelict. The ship was steered up for a nearer view and the object turned out to be an 80-foot whale fast asleep.

As the ship ran close to the big black sleeper the first mate blew the whistle twice. Suddenly started from its slumber, the whale lashed his tail half rose from the sea and blew a stream of water that splashed down over most of the spectators.

STRIKERS FIGHT PITCHED BATTLE

With Mine Guards—Property Damage Estimated At \$200,000

Fort Smith, Arkansas, July 17.—After a pitched battle between several hundred striking coal miners and sympathizers, and one hundred guards stationed at the Prairie Creek mines of the Mammoth Vein Coal Company, near Fort Smith, to-day, which ended in the rout of the guards, tipples of three mines were destroyed by fire and dynamite. The property damaged is estimated at \$200,000.

So far as can be ascertained no one was killed or wounded in the fighting, which began shortly after daybreak and continued until late in the day.

HUERTA HEADING FOR JAMAICA?

Likely Chose This City As Place of Refuge For A While

Puerto, Mexico, July 17.—Jamaica is the port most frequently mentioned aboard the foreign ships as the destination of General Huerta, although all admitted that the final choice of a place of refuge lay with the overthrown Provisional President.

Huerta is said to have mentioned that port to a few of his friends, as the one in which he would have no difficulty in transferring there to some transatlantic steamer and with out attracting attention as he would in Havana.

WOMAN SUES SHACKLETON FOR \$5,000

Explorer's Brother Jailed Sometime Ago on Complaint of Same Party

CHARGES FRAUD AGAINST KNIGHT

Who is Anxious to Vindicate Himself in Court as Soon As He Can

London, July 18.—Sir Ernest Shackleton, the celebrated Arctic explorer, has been sued by Miss Josephine Brown for \$5,000. The case is down for hearing on July 28th, shortly after which date Sir Ernest makes his departure on his Antarctic expedition.

Francis R. Shackleton, a brother of the explorer was imprisoned some time ago on a charge of obtaining money from this woman by fraud.

Sir Ernest expressed a strong desire that the suit against him shall be heard as quickly as possible as he has, he asserts, a complete answer to her allegations.

FOOTBALL RECEIPTS

The receipts of last night's match amounted to \$22.00.

DISCOVERIES CONFIRM THE BIBLE STORY

More Babylonian Tablets Unearthed Which Tell About the Fall of Man

TEMPTATION IS DESCRIBED

And the Woman, the Serpent And Forbidden Fruit Are Mentioned

London, July 18.—Dr. Langdon, the Assyriologist of Jesus College, Oxford, who recently translated important early Babylonian tablets found at Nippur and now in the library of the University of Pennsylvania, recovering thereby a pre-Semitic account of the Deluge and of the Fall of Man, which in many ways seemed to be the source of that in the Old Testament, made a further interesting statement:

"Since I announced the translation of the fragment which I copied at Philadelphia last autumn," he said, "the university authorities have found two large fragments which join the original fragments. I have photographs of these, and it is very evident that the tablet is now complete and contains a complete pre-Semitic version of the Flood and also of the Temptation."

Woman Was Concerned "In the fragment which I had at first, that portion of the story of the Temptation was broken away, and Eve, or the woman, did not appear; but from the remained of my original fragment, I must infer that it is impossible that a woman was concerned in the Temptation and in eating the forbidden fruit as well, and that almost certainly a serpent figured in the Temptation."

Consequently we shall soon have in our hands the most ancient version from which the entire Biblical account came. It will take some considerable time to do the work of translation, and it is possible that the photographs which I have will be in adequate, and that I shall be compelled to send to America for certain signs. Then the press may expect to make the most important theological announcement that has been made for a long period."

MARVELLOUS PERFORMANCE

Italian Surgeon Successfully Undertakes Operation On the Heart

Montreal, July 18.—A London cable says a despatch from Pistoria, Italy, to The Daily Mail declares that Dr. Yannucci, chief surgeon of the hospital there, has accomplished a marvel of surgery.

He operated on a girl named Maria Tondia to remove a needle accidentally run into her body to the heart, which in its action came in contact with the point of the needle.

The surgeon, holding the girl's heart in his hand, found that the pulsations, violent at first, gradually ceased. "It is all over," he exclaimed, but as a last hope he started massaging the heart. Little by little its activity was stimulated, and the operation was successfully finished.

Garden Party This Afternoon

Readers are reminded of St. Thomas's garden party, which takes place at the Rectory Grounds, this afternoon, opening at 2.30.

A pleasant afternoon is assured all who attend. Delicious teas will be served during the afternoon.

The ladies in charge hope that their friends will attend in large numbers.

WEATHER REPORT

Toronto (midnight)—Moderate to fresh south-easterly to south-westerly winds, with showers. East Coast: Moderate winds, fair to-day with showers at night.