

Daily Edition, By Carrier, Per Year, \$5.00
Daily Edition, By Mail, Per Year, \$3.00
Semi-Weekly Edition, By Mail, \$1.00
Single Copies Two Cents

THE INVESTIGATION WILL BE THOROUGH

Public Service Commission Paid Visit to Montreal on Monday

WILL PROBE HARBOR BOARD

Latter Invites Examination—Commissioners Ready to Consider Grievances of Private Parties as well as Formal Complaints.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Feb. 20.—The public service commission Messrs. Morine, S. Lake and Ducharme, paid a visit to Montreal on Monday and had an interview with the members of the Montreal Harbor Commission on the subject of the investigation of that body, which the government has enjoined the public service commission to undertake.

The examination into accounts of the harbor board will extend over the whole period of its existence from 1907 onwards. The accountant's work will come first and is expected to be very thorough and to be successful as well as efficient, the experts will undertake the work being expected to offer advice as to any improvements in methods of accountancy which may occur to them.

Inquiries will be held from time to time by the public service commission to assist in elucidating any matters which may come up.

The public service commissioners will not limit themselves to the investigation of formal complaints, but will look into any grievances which may be laid before them from any quarter by persons who consider themselves aggrieved.

SLASHES HIS WIFE'S THROAT

Intoxicated Husband Inflicts Serious Injuries on Woman with Knife—Neighbors Arrive in Time.

Montreal, Feb. 20.—For attempting to murder his wife at their home 60A 7th Avenue, Lachine, by slashing her throat with a bread knife and inflicting 50 or 60 wounds on her arms, back and sides with a pocket knife, Alexander Graham was tonight committed for trial before the court of King's Bench by Recorder Robt. Inrd, of Lachine.

Graham is 44 years of age, and has been working for the Dominion Bridge Company. He was drinking on Sunday and on Monday came and attacked his wife, first with a pocketknife and then with a bread knife. Her shouts brought neighbors to the rescue and Graham was captured just in time.

He had dropped his pocket knife and seized the bread knife with which he was sawing at his wife's throat when he was taken. The woman will recover.

THE PROVISIONAL CONSTITUTION OF REPUBLIC ADOPTED

Nanking Feb. 20.—A delegation of Republicans under the leadership of Tang Shao Yi, is preparing to leave for Peking to convey to Yuan Shi Kai the notification of his election as President of the Republic. They will travel by way of Tien Tsin leaving here on board of a steamer tomorrow. The draft of the provisional constitution has been adopted by the assembly. It is merely provisional, empowering the President of the Republic to appoint a premier and to form a cabinet which will be subject to the approval of a national assembly consisting of five delegates from each of the provinces and from Tibet and Mongolia. The assembly will later be superseded by a regular parliament which will adopt a permanent constitution.

GOVERNMENT TO ACQUIRE ELEVATORS

Hon. Geo. E. Foster Announces Plans for Terminals on Great Lakes.

New Clause of Manitoba Grain Act Gives Commissioners Extensive Powers for Distribution of Cars.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Feb. 20.—The whole day was spent in committee on the Manitoba grain act. A new clause giving the board of grain commissioners wide powers in connection with the distribution of cars produced a long debate. The Liberals objected to the provision claiming that it was liable to abuse and that the present system of priority in ordering cars should be retained.

Hon. Geo. E. Foster maintained that the clause was designed to help in relieving car congestion. It was intended to help the farmers to move their grain, where it was in danger of being destroyed by snow or through dampness. It was the clause to prevent a repetition of the present situation in the west.

Two Conservatives, W. A. Sharpe and Dr. Schaffner, also objected to the clause maintaining too wide powers were given the commission. It was finally passed after a division.

The principal other clause passed today was one establishing a grain survey board at Calgary. There are eight members, six of whom will be nominated by the Calgary Board of Trade and one each by the Province of Saskatchewan.

Late tonight just before the House adjourned Hon. Geo. E. Foster announced the policy of the government in regard to terminal elevators at the head of the lakes. He said that there would be a big appropriation in the estimates to acquire government owned elevators. How much he could not say at the present time.

It was not the intention at present, he said, to acquire elevators at any other point than Fort William and Port Arthur.

It is also understood that it is the intention of the government to establish a staple market with trading privileges at Winnipeg on the lines of that at present at Minneapolis.

The House adjourned at midnight.

PRESIDENT FAVORS BILL EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY MEASURE

the Most Advanced Example of Legislation of its Kind Yet Introduced in Congress.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 20.—President Taft today submitted to congress the report of the employers' liability and workmen's compensation bill, accompanied by a message urging the enactment of the measure, which is the most advanced piece of liability legislation yet presented. The president sets forth that the proposed law not only would insure to employees of railroads engaged in interstate commerce quick adjustment of their claims for damages, but also would relieve the courts of a vast amount of work and enable them to administer judicial affairs with greater dispatch.

"I sincerely hope that the act will pass," said the president. "I deem it one of the great steps of progress toward a satisfactory solution of an important phase of the controversies between employer and employe that has been proposed at the last two or three decades."

WILL SEEK TO AVERT THE STRIKE

Premier Asquith Calls Miners and Owners to Conference Thursday.

Stoppage of Industry Would Inevitably Follow Coal Strike and Government Will Seek to Settle Difficulty.

London, Feb. 20.—The government tonight intervened in the coal dispute which threatens to cause a stoppage of work in the mines throughout the United Kingdom, involving not less than 300,000 miners. After the subject had been discussed at a cabinet meeting Premier Asquith addressed a letter to the representatives of the coal owners and miners, requesting them to meet him and some of his colleagues at the Foreign Office on Thursday next in order to endeavor to arrange a basis of settlement. He added that the industrial council had advised the convening of such a meeting.

The premier states that the government hoped that a means would be found by direct negotiations between the parties concerned to avert the disaster of a national stoppage, but the prospects that that would be achieved before the miners' notices of cessation of work expired on March 1 were so small that the government felt compelled to intervene.

"There is no need for me to enlarge upon the very serious consequences both to the industries of the country and to all classes of coal consumers, which would inevitably follow an extensive stoppage of the coal trade," adds the premier. "If prolonged, it would involve a general stoppage of industry, and His Majesty's government feel that they could not allow such a calamity to ensue without making every endeavor to aid in preventing it."

As a result of the intervention of the government the situation in a trifle more hopeful tonight, although the prospect is none too promising. Premier Asquith's action followed upon complete failure of the negotiations conducted by the English conciliation board which has been sitting in Westminster for several days. These negotiations reached the stage where the owners agreed to the principle of minimum wage, but upon conditions which the miners declined to accept.

On announcement of this failure the cabinet held a second prolonged council with the result that the Premier has invited the deputations to confer with the ministers. Hopes are now centered upon the proved ability of Sir George R. Asquith, the Board of Trade representative, in arranging labor difficulties, but both sides are in an angry mood under the belief that the dispute must now be fought out once for all.

DOCTOR STARTS TO REMOVE HIS OWN APPENDIX

San Francisco, Feb. 20.—Dr. Berttram E. Alden, chief surgeon of the French hospital here, carried out today the operation for appendicitis, an operation for which he is not famous.

On diagnosing his symptoms, Dr. Alden called in his professional friends as witnesses. In the operation room he injected the spinal anesthesia which left his mind clear and gave him the control of his arms. He made the necessary abdominal cuts, but at this point the matter was deemed too serious for experiment and two fellow surgeons completed the operation, removing the appendix while Dr. Alden remained an interested watcher.

Dr. Alden is reported to be rapidly recovering.

PROVINCIAL GRANTS FOR AGRICULTURE TO BE ON NEW BASIS

Ottawa, Feb. 20.—The supplementary estimates soon to be brought down will contain the initial appropriation for government assistance to agriculture by means of grants to the provinces on the basis of population. The exact amount of this year's grants has not yet been finally determined, but it is learned that it will be at least half a million dollars.

Session to End at Easter

Ottawa, Feb. 20.—Unless the Manitoba Boundary Bill precipitates a big fight it is anticipated by the government that the session will end by Easter. This is the aim of the cabinet, and the majority of the opposition are quite favorable. The Grain Bill and the Tariff Commission Bill, two of the most contentious measures are now practically disposed of, and there seems little reason why the session should be prolonged. The budget will be brought down the first week in March, a week's debate should dispose of it.

IMPERIAL TROOPS ARE VICTORIOUS

St. Petersburg, Feb. 20.—Reports from Urumtsk state that the Chinese Imperial troops have won a brilliant victory over the Republicans in the territory.

PASSENGER TRAIN COLLIDES WITH FREIGHT IN THE HOOSAC TUNNEL

Two Trainmen Dead and Two Missing as Result of Catastrophe on Boston & Maine

Flagman Warns Driver of Express that Freight Stopped in Tunnel, but for Unknown Reason Former Failed to Pull Up—Cars Take Fire and Passengers are Slowly Backed Out to Safety—Taken to Boston Later.

North Adams, Mass., Feb. 20.—Two trainmen are dead, two are missing and Hoosac tunnel is so effectively blocked that it may be 24 hours before the tracks will be cleared, as the result of a rear-end collision between a freight train and a Boston express on the Fitchburg division of the Boston and Maine Railroad late today.

The passenger train was not seriously damaged, with the exception of the electric engine which was drawing it, but several cars of the freight were demolished and the wreckage took fire. The smoke pouring from the east portal of the tunnel drove back those who sought entrance from the end, while the heat made it impossible to go beyond the central shaft from the other end. Hours after the crash the wreckage was still burning. Seventeen freight cars were on fire and the heat was so great that portions of the tunnel rock were cracking off and falling to the tracks.

The known facts are: Archibald L. Reynolds, Williamstown, engineer of the passenger train electric engine, Henry Gregg, fireman of the electric engine.

The missing are: Arthur L. Reynolds, Williamstown, engineer of the passenger train electric engine, Henry Gregg, fireman of the electric engine.

The accident happened about 2,500 feet from the east portal of the tunnel about 4:30 o'clock, but it was some time before the news reached North Adams, for all of the railroad wires passing through the tunnel were carried away by the crash. A switchman at the east portal who noticed the train appearing from the mouth of the tunnel was the first to send in word of the wreck.

Meanwhile the passenger train which, with the regular locomotive, had broken away from the electric engine, was slowly backing away from the fire and

IS POPULAR IN ENGLAND

Proposal to Establish Fast Trans-Atlantic Service is Viewed with Approbation in the Mother Land.

London, Feb. 20.—Much satisfaction is expressed with the report that the Canadian Pacific, Canadian Northern and possibly other Canadian steamship lines are negotiating with the British interests for a four and a half days' trans-Atlantic steamship service delivering the mails in Winnipeg in eight days.

It is felt here that a Canadian service equal in speed and quality to the Lusitania and Mauretania would be of incalculable help in solving Canada's troublesome problem of population and finance.

Lord Strathcona is known to have expressed strong views of this kind here and at Ottawa, and it is believed that a project of this character would make a special appeal to the Right Hon. Winston Churchill, the new First Lord of the Admiralty, with whom Lord Strathcona has been conferring recently.

The inability of the Asquith ministry to adopt a preferential policy may make them especially receptive of a Canadian government proposal for co-operation in furthering a closer steamship relationship.

FRENCH BOND ISSUE PASSES THE SENATE

Paris, Feb. 20.—The senate today voted an issue of four per cent, redeemable bonds to the amount of \$60,000,000 at par, for the state railroad. The issue has been fixed for March 23.

Strathcona Contracts Influenza

London, Feb. 20.—Some uneasiness is caused by today's development in influenza of the cold which Lord Strathcona has had for some days.

HE SAYS "HENS CACKLE BUT HAWKES DON'T"

Special Immigration Commissioner Satirizes Stories of Members.

Arthur Hawkes Also States Australasia, Canada's Most Likely Rival for Lion's Share of British Immigrants.

Ottawa, Feb. 20.—"I am the most abused man in Canada, but let them abuse, I am satisfied to be judged on my record."

"This was the greeting today of Arthur Hawkes, special commissioner of the immigration department who arrived in Ottawa this morning, after having been away in the old country for several weeks investigating the situation as regards immigration to Canada in the British Isles. Mr. Hawkes will make his report to the government in two weeks. Mr. Hawkes denied the report that he had "beaten up" a certain fake agent just before sailing. "I was looking for that man," he said. "When I found him I told him about himself in unparliamentary language, and he ran away. There were no blows struck. I don't fight with carnal weapons."

Australia or Australasia is becoming a keen competitor of this country in attracting settlers from the British Isles, according to Mr. Hawkes. Last year nine thousand people left Scotland for Australasia, three times as many as ever before, and they secured 60,000 from the British Isles, twice as many as ever before. "The day I arrived at my home town, Maldstone, a party of forty left for Australasia," said the commissioner.

Speaking of the criticisms made by B. M. MacDonald, M. P. of Pictou, and Dr. Clark, M. P. of Red Deer, in the House of Commons, that he had written despatches about himself from England, Mr. Hawkes said: "It seems poor policy for members of parliament to try and make political capital by distorting the facts. The statements made are absolutely untrue. Being not unknown as a journalist in the old country, I was given a certain amount of publicity, as guest of the evening at the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce banquet, and in other capacities. I am willing to be judged by what appeared in the old country papers, always remember this "hens cackle when they incubate, but Hawkes don't."

Mr. Moore here interrupted the speaker with, "There was no attack on free speech. It was the offensive choice of the hall," which was greeted with cheers.

Col. Seely retorted: "If the honorable member went to Dublin to make a speech we would take the same measures to preserve his right."

FREDERICTON NEWS IN BRIEF

John Palmer Company Changes Hands—Knights of Pythias Celebrate Forty-eighth Anniversary.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, Feb. 20.—The Supreme Court this afternoon concluded hearing of the appeal of the case of Jack N. S. Fertilizer Co. vs. Kenney et al. was the chancery division of appeal and the court considers.

The John Palmer Company passed into new control as the result of reorganization at the annual meeting of the P. W. and W. A. B. McLeellan are no longer directors of the company and will probably dispose of their holdings in the company entirely at an early date to those now in control. The personnel of the new board of directors follows: John Kilburn, J. Fraser Gregory, St. John, Chas. K. Palmer, George Kimball, St. John, and R. N. MacCunn. Mr. Bluer is the new president and the duties of secretary-treasurer the office formerly held by W. A. B. McLeellan, will hereafter be performed by R. N. MacCunn as secretary and William Todd as treasurer.

Fredericton Lodge, Knights of Pythias, celebrated the 48th anniversary of the foundation of the order tonight with a banquet at the York Hotel, Col. A. Dodge of St. John missed the train at Fredericton Junction and did not arrive until 11 o'clock, after which he installed the officers of Fowler Company, Uniform Rank, at Banquet Hall. There were the usual toasts to the King, the order, the City of Fredericton, etc., the speakers including Mayor Thomas Ald, W. S. Hooper and others.

The St. John River Commission will meet here tomorrow to reorganize. Hon. P. C. Keegan of Vanuren, Maine, and Mr. G. Teed, K. C., of St. John, two of the members, are already here and are guests at the Barker House.

Recorder Baxter of St. John arrived here this evening on business to come before the Supreme Court tomorrow.

IMMENSE OIL TANK STEAMERS PLANNED

Liverpool, Feb. 20.—The Journal of Commerce says that contracts have been completed for the construction of 21 oil tank steamers adapted to the consumption of coal or oil and ranging from 9000 to 15,000 tons capacity.

THE VOTE OF CENSURE IS DEFEATED

Premier Sums Up Government's Intentions Concerning House of Lords.

Commons Also Sadly in Need of Reorganization Says Mr. Asquith—Free Speech Debate.

London, Feb. 20.—The amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the Throne moved in the House of Commons yesterday was rejected by a vote of 224 to 431. The amendment alleged that the government had not fulfilled its pledges to reconstruct the House of Lords.

In summing up for the government today Premier Asquith declared that there was no truth in the statements of the opposition that pledges had been given that the reconstruction of the House of Lords should precede the Home Rule bill. The proper time for that, he said, was obviously not before but after the settlement of the Irish second chamber would be submitted during the life time of the present parliament, but an ideal system of representative democratic government would necessitate not only the reconstruction of the House of Lords, but an alteration of the whole basis of representation in the House of Commons.

In the House of Commons today Col. Seely said the additional cost of moving troops in connection with the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill's Belfast visit was £2700, adding that the right of free speech must be safeguarded at any cost.

Mr. Moore here interrupted the speaker with, "There was no attack on free speech. It was the offensive choice of the hall," which was greeted with cheers.

Col. Seely retorted: "If the honorable member went to Dublin to make a speech we would take the same measures to preserve his right."

WIRELESS SERVICE TO THE MAGDALENS TO BE ESTABLISHED

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Feb. 20.—Hereafter the people of the Magdalen Islands are not to be kept in ignorance of what goes on in the rest of the Dominion. It was announced by Hon. L. P. Pelletier, Postmaster General, tonight, that a weekly service by Marconi wireless would be established between Pictou, N. S., and the Islands. The service would be limited to one thousand words a week, to be read in the churches, etc. The annual cost will be \$450.

IMPROVEMENT OF EXPERIMENTAL FARM

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Feb. 20.—C. James, who has been appointed by the government to work out a system of agricultural co-operation between the provinces and the Dominion, was in Ottawa today and had a conference with Hon. Martin Burrell, when they mapped out the work. Mr. James will commence duties with the Dominion government on April 1.

Mr. Burrell is planning a re-organization of the experimental farms of the Dominion with a view to making them more practical and useful. At present many of the farms are not up to a very high standard. It is understood that in the supplementary estimates will be placed a considerable sum for improvements to buildings on experimental farms.

Nova Scotia Legislature On Thursday

Special to The Standard. Halifax, Feb. 20.—The Nova Scotia Legislature meets on Thursday. It is said that two of the vacancies in the legislative council will be filled by the appointment of H. J. Beasley, of Halifax and Mayor J. J. Kinley, of Lunenburg.

There are two aspirants for the speakership, H. H. Wilkshire, of Canada, and Dr. Killis, of Guysboro, chancery favoring Wilkshire.

PLAN TRADE AGREEMENT

British West Indies Send Delegates to Ottawa to Discuss Reciprocity—New York Rumor Denied.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Feb. 20.—Representatives of the British West Indies are expected to come to Ottawa by invitation of the Canadian government in the latter part of March to discuss the framing of a reciprocal trade agreement.

The recommendations made by the British Commission headed by Lord Balfour, which investigated the West Indian trade situation two years ago will not necessarily be the basis of the coming negotiations. One of the suggestions of the British Commission was the granting of a substantial preference on Canadian flour. Reports from New York indicate a belief among New York exporters that this preference is to become effective.

Hon. George E. Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, stated tonight that this was a wrong idea.

SYSTEM OF TRADE COMMISSIONERS TO BE REORGANIZED

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Feb. 20.—It is understood that as soon as the Grain Bill is disposed of Hon. G. E. Foster intends to take up the question of the reorganization of the Canadian Trade Commissioners system. Trade will be a complete reorganization of the work and a re-appointment of the territory. There are no less than five vacant positions which have been held open until the Minister of Trade and Commerce had time to make a systematic study of the question. The positions vacant are Berlin, Paris, Shanghai, Havana and Vienna.

There are several candidates to be filled while a number of new appointments are expected at strategic trade points. It is the intention of the ministers to make the commissioners more useful to Canadian commerce than in the past. They will act as sort of Canadian vice-consuls.