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VOL. L. NO. 415.

VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1910.

FIFTY-THIRD YEAR.

NO FOUNDATION FOR WAR SCARE

President Taft Makes Reassuring Speech at Banquet of Society for Judicial Settlement of Disputes

BELIEVES IN WISE MILITARY MOVES

Explains His Reasons For Recommending Fortification of Panama Canal—Much Property Involved There

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—President Taft, addressing the closing banquet of the American Society for the Judicial Settlement of International Disputes, allayed the "war scare" which has furnished headlines in newspapers in the last few days. He said: "There is not the slightest reason for such a sensation, because we are at peace with all nations of the world and are quite likely to remain so." He said his purpose in outlining the preparations of the United States for war, as a peace measure, "was to show by contrast the great worthiness of the movement for a permanent court of arbitration and universal peace. The president summarized the condition of the national defense, and urged that a policy of "military preparedness" be pursued. He emphasized the fact that the American people would never consent to the maintenance of a standing army sufficient to cope with that of the greater powers. He urged the retention of the present regular army, the improvement of the national militia, and the maintenance of a reserve force of 100,000 men, which would be available for service in case of war.

PACK OF SALMON IN PAST SEASON

Official Statement Shows Total 762,201 Cases—Better than Usual Pack of the "Off Year"

VANCOUVER, Dec. 17.—An official statement just issued shows that the total salmon pack of British Columbia for the season of 1910 was 762,201 cases. These were divided among the principal fishing districts as follows: Fraser river, 223,143; Skeena river, 222,032; Rivers inlet, 129,393; Naas river, 39,729; outlying districts, 167,904. Total, 762,201.

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WINNIPEG STRIKE

Sixty Cars Operated in Afternoon and Withdrawn at Night—Little Disorder Reported

WINNIPEG, Dec. 17.—Sixty cars were operated all afternoon by the street railway company. Windows were broken in several cars near the Grand Union hall, where strikers had congregated, but a squad of police soon quelled the disturbance.

BANKS ARE SUED

Alberta Government Sues to Obtain Money for Great Waterways Railway Bonds

EDMONTON, Alta., Dec. 17.—Attorney-General Mitchell has taken action against the Dominion Bank and the Royal Bank for refusing to honor the cheques issued by the province on the waterways bonds. The cheques were: for the Dominion bank, \$400,000; for the Royal bank, \$1,000,000; for the Bank of Montreal, \$3,000,000, with accumulated interest. The cheques were presented at the local branches of the banks, where payment was refused. The cheques were then sent to protest, and the attorney-general issued writs on the banks for the respective amounts indicated.

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CASUALTY LIST GROWS LONGER

Many Killed and Wounded in Recent Battles Between Mexican Federal Troops and Revolutionists

GENERAL NAVARRO REPORTS VICTORIES

Other Despatches Describe One Encounter As Draw—Government Sending Heavy Reinforcements To Scene

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 17.—Through Colonel Garcia Cullen, chief of staff of President Diaz, the Associated Press to-day has received a copy of a telegraphic report of General Navarro of the battle at Malpais, and a copy forwarded to the war department here. The report reads: "In compliance with your telegram of yesterday I sent 475 men under Colonel Trucey Aubert, of the Thirteenth Cavalry, to take possession of Malpais, and protect the arrival of reinforcements from Chihuahua. The revolutionists were on the heights bordering the pass and began firing upon the troops from all sides. At the same time, other revolutionary forces began firing upon my own troops at Patzcuaro."

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FARMERS CROWD FLOOR OF HOUSE

Delegates Present to Government Memorials Agreed Upon in Conference—Several Requests Are Made

SIR WILFRID'S REPLY IS DISAPPOINTING

Leaders Declare They Will Repeat Demands Until Conceded—Mr. Barnard Refers to Fishery Poachers

OTTAWA, Dec. 18.—The House of Commons afforded an unusual scene today. The thirty of invading farmers from various parts of the Dominion to present their memorials to the government, took possession of the chamber. On the floor, all the members of the government were crowded out, and the galleries filled with farmers. The farmers' demands were: (1) That the government should take steps to protect the fisheries from poachers; (2) That the government should take steps to protect the fisheries from poachers; (3) That the government should take steps to protect the fisheries from poachers.

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PARTIES REMAIN AS THEY WERE

Government Majority in New House of Commons Will Be Same As in Last—Is Now Put Down at 126

ONLY SIX SEATS TO BE HEARD FROM

Liberals and Unionists Have Each 272 Members—Forecasts of Courses Likely To Be Followed

With the exception of a few changes, the new House of Commons will be unchanged. If the results in the six districts yet to be declared repeat the prediction of last January, the old proportion of the parties, the Liberals and Unionists, will have four members and one member less respectively than they did in the last parliament, making them exactly equal. If the speaker, who is elected as a Unionist, is included. These seats have gone to the government's ally, the labor party, having added three to their numerical strength, while Mr. Redmond comes back with two followers more than he did in the year. Both Nationalist gains were from Unionists. The standing of the parties is: Government coalition—Liberals 268; Laborists 43; Nationalists 72; Independent Nationalists 10. Total 393. Opposition—Liberals 272; Unionists 272. Three former Liberal seats, one Unionist, one Nationalist, and one Independent Nationalist are yet to be heard from.

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