

ANOTHER SERIOUS CONFLAGRATION IN CITY OF MONTREAL

New Four Storey Brick Building Guttled in Montreal by Fire Today—Firemen Stood Helpless Watching Flames Destroying the Structure—Water Famine Will be Over Today City Engineers Working Hard to Complete Task.

Montreal, Que., Dec. 30.—The floors of a new four storey brick building on St. Lawrence Boulevard were gutted by fire early this morning. For over an hour the firemen stood helplessly watching the flames eat their way through the building and unable to do anything because there was only one little stream of water available. At last, however, the city water department opened the valves of the high level reservoir and the firemen were able to extinguish the blaze. The loss is \$50,000.

The fires in the building were as follows: National Stove Mfg. Co.; Grothe and Junan, auto repairers; National Waist Co., the Miller Clothing Co., the Queen Shirt Co., S. Warnick and Co., Long Bros., Lax and Rosenstein.

The structure was a fine four storey concrete and brick building, just completed in September last. It is the property of Messrs. Besner, Beaudoin and Demers. The loss on the building and contents is now estimated at only \$15,000 and is covered by insurance.

Water Famine Over Montreal, Que., Dec. 30.—At three o'clock this afternoon the water will be turned on in the re-constructed conduit at Verdun. This was announced from the water department this forenoon by Secretary Frank Dowd, who has received his information from the engineers on the work.

The turning on of the water at 3 o'clock does not mean that the city will be provided with water at that hour. Three and a half hours are necessary to fill the supply basin and this work may be even slower for the valve to the conduit.

On gradually as the officials are taking no chances with the springing of another leak in the now much weakened conduit.

With everything proceeding normally the people of Montreal should have a pressure of one-half to three-quarters their regular force from their taps by seven o'clock this evening. In the early hours of this morning the last section of the steel tubing which is to act as a temporary substitute for the conduit was inserted in the concrete pipe. A considerable space was left between the steel and the concrete and the steel penetrated into the concrete tube for some distance.

In this space there is sufficient room for workmen to pass and this is now being sealed up with brick, cement, mortar and other materials.

S.O.E.B.S. AT HOME.

The members of Lodge Brandon Sons of England Benefit Society are holding an at home on New Year's night in their lodge room, Fraternal Hall, 6th St. and Victoria Ave. The program consisting of concert, whist and dancing is in the hands of a strong committee and an enjoyable time is assured to all who attend. Refreshments will be served. Tickets can be obtained from any of the members.

Postmaster Quits

Philadelphia, Dec. 30.—Postmaster Thomas B. Smith resigned his office today. He is succeeded by former Magistrate John A. Thornton.

BRITISH MONEY TO AID MEXICO

Rumors Regarding \$4,000,000 Loan Have Been Confirmed—Paris Bankers are Involved. London, Dec. 30.—The London agents of the Bank of London and Mexico, today confirmed the report that the negotiations are in progress to furnish that bank with \$4,000,000 so that it can tide over its difficulties. Paris banking houses are participating in the transaction.

Speyer Brothers will pay the January coupon of the National Railways of Mexico bonds under an arrangement by which the Mexican government will deposit certain securities to cover the amount necessary to pay the dividend. Negotiations to this end were completed today between the Mexican finance minister and the Speyer firm.

It was emphasized by Speyer Bros. that no negotiations for a Mexican loan through them were either on foot or in contemplation.

FIGHTING RESUMED

Presidio, Texas, Dec. 30.—Fighting between Mexican federalists and constitutionalists at Ojinaga, Mexico, was resumed this morning. The rebels advanced upon the federal trenches where the remnant of Huerta's army in Northern Mexico had taken refuge after its disastrous defeat of last night.

HITCH ARISES IN TEACHERS TRIP TO OLD COUNTRY

London, Dec. 30.—(C. A. P.)—Great disappointment is expressed by those interested in the interchange of teachers between the Motherland and overseas dominions at the board of Education's notification that it cannot acknowledge overseas teachers as certificated. Several local education authorities are, in consequence, offering colonial applicants the pay of uncertificated teachers, the result being that these applicants are compelled on financial grounds to give up the idea of a long stay in England. Other local authorities are ignoring the opening of the board, knowing that the applicants possess the qualifications of certified teachers in their own country. A proposal is also being made to grant the overseas teachers' certificates for twelve months only.

TAKE STEPS TO FORM DOMINION BAR ASSOCIATION

Seventh Annual Meeting of Ontario Bar Association Closed at Toronto Today. Toronto, Ont., Dec. 30.—The seventh annual meeting of the Ontario Bar Association went into history this afternoon with the election of officers.

Suggestions to leave the time of the next meeting to the council, to change it to the first week in the New Year and to the first week in September were all voted down.

A step towards the formation of a Dominion Bar Association was taken in naming a committee to take this matter in hand.

Frank Deaton, K.C., referred to the suggestion of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association that commercial courts be established throughout the Dominion for the speedy determination of claims in commercial cases.

The following are officers for the ensuing year: Honorary president, James Bicknell, K.C.; president, F. M. Field, K.C.; secretary, A. J. Thompson; corresponding secretary, R. J. MacLennan; treasurer, C. A. Moss. A. H. Clarke, of Calgary, was elected one of the representatives.

EX-CHIEF OF POLICE IN DOCK AT COURT HERE TODAY ON TWO CHARGES OF SERIOUS NATURE

Alleged to Have Obtained Whiskey by Extortion from Local Barber and to Have Tried to Obtain Money from Hotel Proprietor—Sent Here on Detective Work and Declares He Wanted to be Generous to Law Breakers.

An unusual case, in which an ex-chief of police stood in the dock, was brought before Magistrate Bates Tuesday. The accused man was John Larney White and he faced two charges of extortion by threats. It was alleged that accused, a well-dressed and well set up man, and a provincial detective, came here and attempted to obtain money from Frank Hallet, proprietor of the Langham hotel, also that he did obtain whiskey from a barber named Dewey at the Empire hotel. When the charges were first read to accused he elected to be tried by jury but he subsequently changed his mind and elected to be summarily dealt with. Evidence was taken in one case and the proceedings adjourned until afternoon. The maximum penalty for the offence with which Wright is charged is fourteen years.

In his evidence Mr. Frank Hallet said he first met accused on Christmas Day at closing time, when witness refused to supply some drink. Next day accused telephoned for witness to go over to a room at the Brandon hotel "on business." Accused then said he was a provincial detective and accused witness of selling drinks after hours. He said "You had better fix it up" and put his left hand out behind him in a suggestive way. Witness told him he would see him later, having no money with him. They had drinks together and witness went away. Witness next saw accused in the Brandon hotel again on Sunday night and

accused again wanted him to settle but he went away. The next and last time he saw White was yesterday afternoon when he again asked witness if he wanted to settle, but witness told him he would not have anything to do with him and he should get out as quickly as he could.

White, cross-examined witness, claiming to be a provincial detective. He had a badge and claimed that he accused Hallet of supplying him with drinks at 12:30 and taking \$1 from him.

W. A. Thompson, the next witness, deposed to being in the Langham bar yesterday afternoon and hearing Hallet say "I don't owe you anything; Mr. Wilson is here to look after that kind of thing." Prisoner then said, "Well, if that's how you feel about it, alright," and left the premises.

License Inspector A. Wilson, said he did not know accused and so far as witness knew, White had nothing whatever to do with the licensing department.

Cross-examined: Any provincial constable, or a citizen, had a right to investigate and report an irregularity.

Accused gives Evidence. Accused, under oath, said on Christmas night at 11:50 he left the Brandon hotel in company with the bartender, Mr. Anderson. The latter took him to the Langham hotel. The clerk then after some fun, said "I guess you fellows know where to

GERMANY IN GRIP OF BAD SNOW STORM

WATERS OF NORTH SEA HAVE UNDATED LOW-LYING CITIES. FOUR ARE DROWNED.

Berlin, Germany, Dec. 30.—All Germany is today in the grip of a violent storm, accompanied in many places by heavy snow falls. Berlin itself is thickly covered with snow, which is comparatively rare here.

Great damage has been done by wind and rain along the coast. The waters of the Baltic and the North Sea have inundated the low lying cities, interrupted railway wire communication, and cut off wire facilities. Several cities are without drinking water, electricity or gas.

Four fishermen were drowned today at Swinemunde, where the water front was severely damaged.

CHANGE TO TEACH IN PHILIPPINES

Washington, Dec. 30.—School teachers throughout the country have open to them the opportunity of entering the Philippine service through competitive examinations that are being held today and tomorrow by the government. From the eligible list appointments will be made for service in the Philippine Islands beginning with the opening of the next school year. The service requires women for home economics and men for agriculture, manual training, high school science, mathematics, English history and supervisors of school districts.

MUST HAVE LICENSE.

A. E. Kominsky, charged with operating a dance hall on Sixth street, without a license, was before Magistrate Bates on Tuesday and pleaded not guilty. The case was adjourned for three days on the chief's application. The chief stated that the hall had been run since last January as a dance hall but had been closed up for a short period recently.

SWEDEN MOURNS LOSS OF QUEEN MOTHER SOPHIA

Stockholm, Sweden, Dec. 30.—Queen Mother Sophia of Sweden died here today in her seventy-eighth year. She had suffered acutely for several days and succumbed to an attack of inflammation of the lungs. Her Majesty had been practically an invalid for more than a quarter of a century. She was subject to melancholia which necessitated a constant watch on her by her medical attendants. She took very little part in court functions, devoting herself whenever her malady permitted it, to enter her library and reading.

She was a great sympathizer with the Salvation Army whose operations in Scandinavia she followed with great interest. She was also a strong advocate of temperance. The late queen mother was a princess of Nassau and was married at Wiesbaden to the late King Oscar II in June 1857. The royal couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1907, just six months before King Oscar's death. Her Majesty leaves a large fortune, most of which it is understood will go to her youngest son Oscar, who renounced his right to the throne in order to marry Miss Ebba Munk, his mother's maid of honor. This marriage was the cause of the only difference which ever arose between King Oscar II, and Queen Sophia, the latter encouraging the match.

A bulletin issued at the palace says the queen mother's death was peaceful. The city has assumed mourning garb and most of the residents are wearing black. All theatres and places of amusement are closed.

JURY HOPELESSLY AT SEA ON VERDICT IN SCHMIDT TRIAL

New York, N.Y., Dec. 30.—The jury in the case of Hans Schmidt, the priest who killed Anna Ammuller, after having been out since 1:26 p.m. yesterday, had failed to reach an agreement up to 11 o'clock this morning. It was reported that the jurors were hopelessly deadlocked on the question of the prisoner's sanity.

WARM WELCOME FOR LECTURER AT SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco, Dec. 30.—Dr. Shosuke Sato, the second Japanese exchange lecturer to be sent to the United States, is expected to arrive here today. He will be met by a delegation of prominent Japanese citizens. Both American and Japanese officials declare that visits of this kind are very important because they promote wider knowledge of the Japanese among Americans and remove causes of misunderstanding.

PHILADELPHIA GARMENT HANDS RETURN TO WORK

Philadelphia, Dec. 30.—According to employers, the garment workers' strike showed signs of breaking up today. Several of the manufacturers said that employees applied for work in varying numbers but that there was not enough work on hand to give all of them employment. The strike began July 14, at that time about 5,000 being involved. Some of the strikers returned to work from time to time, which led to some disorder. Two men lost their lives in fights growing out of the strike.

FRICITION MAY ARISE BETWEEN G.T. BRITAIN AND UNITED STATES

Action of Liberal Government at London is Upheld by Party Organ Which Urges for More Attention to All British Exhibition in Same Year as Canal Opening—Naval Representation at Panama Canal to be Very Imposing. London, Dec. 30.—Talk of friction between the United States and Great Britain over the question of the British government's decision not to participate officially in the Panama-Pacific exposition at San Francisco, is the subject of comment in today's Westminster Gazette, which voices their views of the government. The newspaper points out that the prospect of making the British national exhibit a success rests with British merchants and manufacturer.

STEAMER RE-FLOATED

Thursday Island, Australia, Dec. 30.—The steamer Tasman which has been ashore for several days in the Gulf of Papua, was floated today with the assistance of the Japanese steamer Inaho Maru. She has fifteen feet of water in her hold, but with her own pumps is keeping it from rising.

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CARS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

The operation of street cars on New Year's day will be commenced at 9:30 a.m. The usual special cars at noon and in the evening will not be operated. The cars will be run as usual in the evening until 11:30 p.m.

MAN RUSHED TO HOSPITAL IN 'PEG AFTER SHOOTING

Alleged to Have Been Seriously Injured by a Neighbor—Little Hope for Recovery. Winnipeg, Dec. 30.—Shot by a neighbor in the head and severely wounded in the arm, A. Melnyczuk, of Janov, Man., near Selkirk, was rushed to Winnipeg by a C.P.R. train and is lying in the St. Boniface hospital in a semi-conscious condition and is so severely wounded that little hope is held for his recovery.

EVIDENCE SUBMITTED BY CROWN AT KRAFCHENKO'S TRIAL IS VERY DAMAGING

Preliminary Hearing of Man Accused of Murdering Bank Manager Arnold is Marked by Sensational Evidence of Witnesses Produced by the Crown. Eye-Witness of Crime Placed on Stand. Winnipeg, Dec. 30.—Monday afternoon saw the commencement of the preliminary hearing of John "Krafchenko, who is on trial for the murder of H. M. Arnold, the manager of the Bank of Montreal, at Plum Coulee, and the added charge of robbery from that bank on Dec. 4, 1913.

Even in its present early stages the case has proven itself to be one of the most remarkable instances of the working-up of a case by the crown that has ever been seen in the west of Canada. The extraordinary minute details of evidence which have been amassed by the crown for the prosecution appear to fit in piece by piece with a fitness of a delicate Chinese puzzle. W. H. Hastings is conducting the prosecution slowly, with infinite care and skill, he is piecing the evidence together in one direction the direction which he hopes will lead to the conviction of John Krafchenko.

Crush of Spectators

Long before the court room doors were unlocked the lobby outside was thronged with a dense mass of those who were interested in the case, but only one-third of the crowd was able to get into the court room. Two dramatic incidents stood out prominently among others. The first was when little Mary Doerksen, aged 11, who lives in Plum Coulee told how she had seen Krafchenko a week before the murder in Plum Coulee and how he had tried to kiss her. She had again seen him the night before the murder and had run away from him because she was afraid. She told how the day of the hold up she had seen a man wearing a moustache and who was dressed in a black coat, black hat and tan boots hanging around the neighborhood of the bank a few minutes before the murder was committed and how she had seen this man looking

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It intimates that if these commercial interests are prepared to say they will exhibit on a substantial scale the question of a British government subsidy will assume a new aspect and be open to reconsideration. The Gazette adds that the British naval representation at the opening of the Panama canal "will be on such a scale as to make the question whether or not to participate officially in the exposition at San Francisco relatively unimportant."

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Strike Which Began in July and Caused Loss of Life is Breaking Up.

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MANY PRIZES FOR DOG RACES

Every merchant in the city has subscribed by donating a prize to the dog races this year, giving us a most elaborate list of prizes which should cheer the hearts of every boy competing. It is requested that the boys intending to compete should make their entry to the secretary, A. H. Bartlett not later than 1 o'clock tomorrow afternoon (Wednesday), so that their names may appear on the program. Programs will be distributed to all who attend the races New Year's morning.

Teachers to Visit Cuba.

Key West, Fla., Dec. 30.—The annual meeting of the Florida Educational Association opened here today with an unusually large number of teachers from all parts of the state in attendance. A feature of the meeting will be a trip to Cuba and an inspection of the schools there.

Factories in Quebec Will Close Down, Throwing Many Out Of Employment

Quebec, Dec. 30.—Nineteen boot and shoe factories will close their doors tomorrow and over 2,000 workmen will be forced to strike on account of the difficulties between the shoemakers' unions and the John Ritchie Co. and Gale Bros. Firms. The nineteen factories which will close tomorrow were paying about \$25,000 a week in wages and the retail trade in the lower part of the city will suffer a great deal from the coming conflict. The Association decided to make it a rule not to keep a workman in any boot and shoe factory without a contract. To this the unions refused to submit, and the strike is the result.