Victoria TWICE-A-WEEK Times.

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PROPOSE TO TAX ALL FOODSTUFF

TARIFF REFORM LEADERS MAKE POSITION CLEAR

John Burns Breaks Silence and Vigorously Denounces Proposal.

Toronto, Dec. 20.—A cablegram from London says:

"Leaders of the tariff reform propaganda in their speeches are now announcing that they intend, if the election results in the defeat of the present government, to tax all food stuffs and all manufactures, colonial or foreign. They have been forced into this explanation of their position owing to insistent demands of an unequivocal statement as to the revenue side of their proposal. Not only are they now frankly stating these views, but they are making appeals for the support of workingmen on the strength of them, particularly those having relation to taxes on manufactures.

"In brief, they propose a tax of two and a half per cent. on all colonial food stuffs and a tax of five per cent. on foreign food stuffs. All colonial manufactures, it is proposed, shall be taxed five per cent., and all foreign manufactures ten per cent.

"John Burns, president of the local government board, at a mass meeting in Battersea, denounced the proposals with vigor. He said there was one factory in Batterea employing men working foreign goods into more finished products. That factory, he declared, would be compelled to close within a few weeks after the adoption of such a tariff. This did not apply to one constituency alone. Similar conditions extended all over the United Kingdom.

"Mr. Burns also took advanced ground on the liquor question. His language was strong and incapable of any misunderstanding. Not only did he express his own personal views, but he plainly pledged the government to do everything possible to lessen the evil of intemperance and to curb power of the liquor interests."

Lloyd George Speaks.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Lloyd George, speaking at a Walworth's meeting, said:

"Neither the colonies nor foreigners would buy our goods except for two reasons; either their quality is better or the price is cheaper for the same quality. They are not buying them because they love us. You go to the colonies with any article, wherever it comes from French, Russian, German or American, and if it is a better article for a cheaper price they are not going to buy a British article which is inferior at a bigger price. They would be fools if they did it. That is not the way to do business. Our goods are beating them all. Why we are able to put them in every market in the world more cheaply than any other country."

Unionists Confident.

Montreal, Dec. 20.—A London cablegram says:

"There are signs that the feverish rush of Lloyd George and Churchill is spending itself. This is inevitable, human nature being what it is. It has been a week of stupendous speech-making. Apart from thousands of smaller meetings in all parts of the kingdom, there have been thirty-one big speeches from peers, who certainly proved amid excited heckling that they are not fools, knaves or cowards, thirteen from Unionist ex-cabinet ministers, twenty-four from Radical cabinet ministers, winding up with great lashes from Lloyd George and John Burns. If platform fireworks alone counted, the ministers must win easily.

"Nobody on the Unionist side compares with Lloyd George, Churchill or Burns in mad oratory, but it is significant to note that the shrewdest Unionist election workers, remembering that the result after all lies with a residum of, say, 20 per cent. of the quiet kind of middle-class and working men, still express confidence in a Unionist victory. Mr. Chamberlain himself adheres to his prediction, made some weeks ago, that the Unionists will have a hundred majority. The secretary of the tariff reform league expects a majority of 80 to 90. A leading member of the political committee of the Constitutional Club, who is also proprietor of a leading Unionist popular weekly journal, gives the estimate of a Unionist majority as 30 to 40.

"After consulting Radical experts, I should say that if the election were next week the Radical whirlwind would probably sweep enough of the usually excited residum into the Radical camp to secure a small Radical majority, but the interval of nearly a month before polling will likely reassert the sway of tariff reform with the electorate, which has been continuous since the general election four years and persisting even in the bye-elections, such as Bermondsey, since the budget was introduced.

"This interval will likely also strengthen the uneasiness caused by the continued disclosure of Germany's unprecedented naval preparation and the Radical ministers' disinclination to make a strong counter naval programme."

RUSSIAN OFFICERS ARRESTED.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 20.—Colonels Zinovitff and Svatogoi, of the quartermaster's department, have been arrested as a result of the recent investigation of the department, when irregularities involving more than a million dollars were discovered.

REPORT MAY BE NON-COMMITTAL

NO DECISION YET ON DR. COOK'S CLAIMS

Explorer is Now Believed to Be Visiting Friend in Norway.

Copenhagen, Dec. 20.—That the committee of scientists which is investigating the polar data of Dr. Frederick Cook will return a report neither favorable or adverse to the claims of the explorer, was the prediction to-day of a member of faculty of the university of Copenhagen, who is cognizant of the deliberations of the committee.

The general impression prevails that Dr. Cook's paper as submitted do not constitute proof that he discovered the north pole.

Dr. Cooke's close friends declare that the doctor, previous to dispatching his polar data to the university of Copenhagen, had written in private to Rector Torp informing him that in the event of an adverse decision, he, Dr. Cook, would not appeal from the finding of the committee. His instruments and three documents, important to the case, Dr. Cook pointed out in his letter, are still at Etah.

Believed to Be in Norway.

New York Dec. 20.—Intimate friends of Dr. Cook, who are on pins and needles pending a decision on the data at Copenhagen, said to-day that in their belief Dr. Cook is at the home of a friend in Christianana, Norway, within easy call of Copenhagen. They thought that Dr. Cook left this country on the steamer United States on Thanksgiving Day. Walter Lonsdale, the explorer's secretary, is known to have sailed on the vessel.

Travelled on Carmania.

Naples, Dec. 20.—A rumor spread here to-day that Dr. Cook was aboard the steamer Saxonia and a crowd formed at the dock to greet him. The captain said he had been notified that Dr. Cook had intended to cross on the steamer, but asked the company to transfer his ticket to the Carmania.

TWENTY-SEVEN DROWN IN RIVER IN RUSSIA

Fall Among Blocks of Ice When Wooden Bridge Collapses.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 20.—Twenty-seven persons were drowned by the collapse of a wooden bridge across the Pripet river, Minsk province, according to reports received to-day.

The victims fell into the river, which was filled with great blocks of ice and rescue was impossible.

STORMS ON ATLANTIC.

Liners Eastward Bound Are Delayed by Hurricanes.

London, Dec. 20.—Incoming Transatlantic liners report having encountered terrific weather. The Carmania, New York and Amerika, arriving at Queenstown and Plymouth respectively to-day, were all greatly delayed. Four days out the liners met hurricanes from the eastward, with mountainous seas, which continued until Saturday night.

FLIGHTS IN BI-PLANE.

Aviator Covers Approximately Eleven Miles in Twelve Minutes.

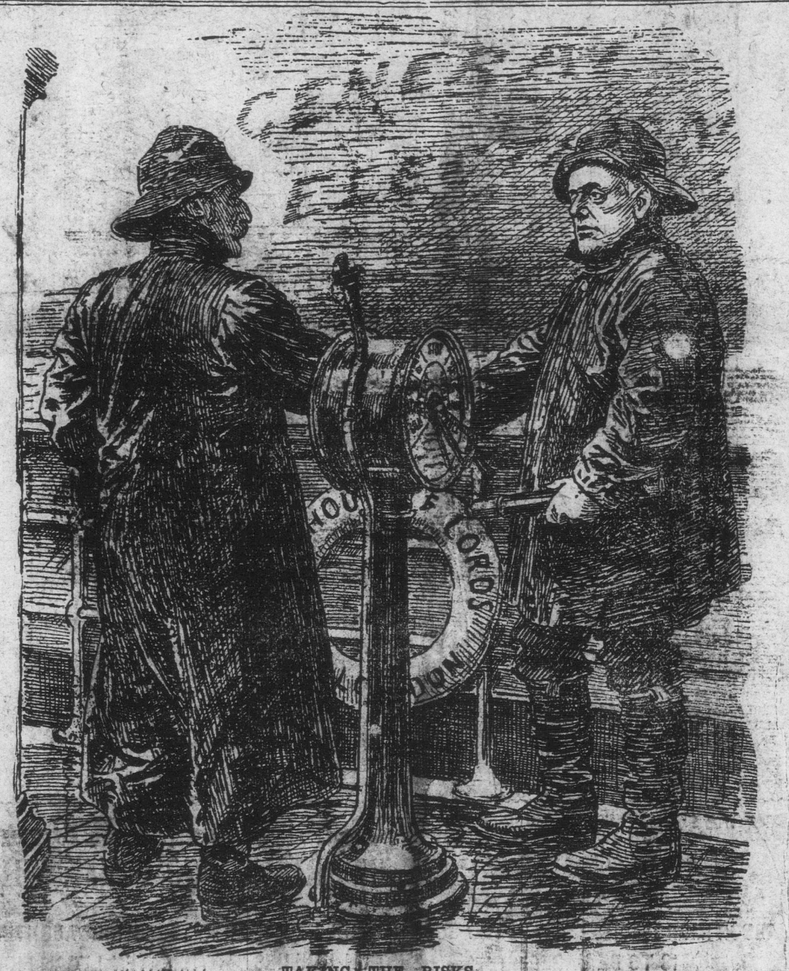
St. Joseph, Dec. 20.—Charles J. Hamilton, who has just concluded a series of flights in his Curtiss bi-plane here, to-day made a flight of 12 minutes in which he circled Lake Contrary eight times and covered approximately 11 miles.

ROADS HAVE TROUBLE TO MAKE ENDS MEET

James J. Hill Declares the Cost of All Materials Has Advanced.

Portland, Dec. 20.—In discussing the general railroad conditions of the country Mr. James J. Hill, of the Great Northern, contended that with the advance in cost of all materials required for the construction and maintenance of railroads, the large railroad systems of the country are having trouble to make ends meet.

"Engineers and trainment," said Mr. Hill, when asked concerning the agitation in the East for a general strike among railroad employees, "are among the best paid laborers in the country, and their wages have been increased more in the last few years than those of any other class of workmen. The recent strike by the switchmen employed on the Northwestern railroads was more the effect of rivalry between the two organizations of these employees than of any other cause. It required only three days to place this strike where it failed to prove troublesome to the railroads. As a result, the strike exists in name only."



TAKING THE RISKS.

Pilot (at wheel)—"Full speed ahead."
Ex-Pilot Rosebery—"Looks a bit thick, doesn't it? Speed ahead!"
Pilot Lansdowne (cheerfully)—"Can't help that—full."

—Punch.

THREE DROWN AFTER SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT

Teacher and Two Girls Perish While on Their Way Home.

Bedford, Ind., Dec. 20.—Laura Currans, who had just received the prize "for the prettiest girl in the school district," and Alma Utterback and W. A. Johnson, the girl's teacher, were drowned last night as they were trying to reach their homes from a school "social."

RUSSIAN GRAND DUKE DEAD.

Cannes, France, Dec. 20.—Grand Duke Michael Nicholaievitch, grand uncle of the Emperor Nicholas, died here on Saturday.

Grand Duke Michael was the oldest representative of the Imperial house, having been born in 1832, the fourth son of Emperor Nicholas I. He repeatedly distinguished himself during his long military career. He entered active service at the age of fourteen as a lieutenant, and at twenty had attained the rank of general in nominal command of the ordnance department of the empire.

FROZEN TO DEATH.

Chatham, Ont., Dec. 20.—Thos. Ryan, a bachelor, has been found frozen to death near a strawstack on the Graham farm in Raleigh. He is thought to have fallen asleep and died from exposure.

TWO CRUISERS TO BE BUILT ON THAMES

Contract for Dreadnought Has Not Yet Been Awarded.

London, Dec. 20.—It is understood that the admiralty has decided to give orders to the Thames Iron Works for the construction of two cruisers of this year's programme.

The question of allotting the company the orders for one of the new Dreadnoughts, a matter in which the Liberal East End members have greatly interested themselves during the last few months, has not been settled.

MAY SUCCUMB TO WOUND.

Chicago, Ills., Dec. 20.—Jos. Russo was shot yesterday and may die. He declared he had been doomed by members of a secret society in Italy and gave the name of an Italian who had followed him.

STATE FUNERAL FOR LEOPOLD

KING TO BE BURIED WITH SOLEMN CEREMONY

Late Monarch's Will Leaves Sixty Millions to Baroness Vaughn.

Brussels, Dec. 20.—Although King Leopold requested that the funeral services be characterized by the utmost simplicity and attended by none but members of the royal family, it was announced to-day that the authorities have decided upon a state funeral, to be conducted with the usual pomp and ceremony.

This decision is said to have been reached after an application by Brussels merchants, who undoubtedly will profit largely by the crowd attracted by the obsequies.

It was stated authoritatively that Baroness Vaughn will not attend the funeral. Many rumors concerning her whereabouts are being circulated. Many of her acquaintances declare that she adhered to her announced purpose and has gone to Paris. Others believe her still to be at her villa here.

Following the lawyers's inventory of the late King's property, it is estimated that $60,000,000 was left the Baroness by his will. Leopold's daughters will sue to recover this bequest.

THREE CHILDBEN BURNED TO DEATH

Chicago, Ills., Dec. 20.—Lary, six years old, Charles four, and James two children of John Paromia, were burned to death in their home to-day while a little girl was attempting to get breakfast for her parents.

TRAIN ROBBERS SENTENCED.

Marnett is Given Seven Years, While Rowe Gets Three.

Winnipeg, Dec. 20.—Police Magistrate Daly on Saturday sentenced the two self-confessed mail robbers, Barnett getting seven years and Rowe three years. Barnett broke down on Friday and confessed he was the author of the plot, and that Rowe was only an accomplice.

E. L. Howell, for the crown, asked for a severe sentence on Barnett, who was a post office employee and a shorter term for Rowe who was not in the post office service, having been discharged after one month. It was on his homestead in the Springside district near Yorkton that some of the money was hidden.

WANT AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHOOL ACT

Deputation of Trustees is Waiting on Ministers To-day.

(From Monday's Daily.)

A deputation representing the B. C. School Trustees' Association is waiting upon the members of the government this afternoon to present a series of resolutions passed at the recent convention in Chilliwack. In the deputation are J. C. Robertson, Chilliwack, president; Captain McIntosh, Victoria; C. E. Hope, Vancouver; E. Peebles, New Westminster; W. E. Flumerfelt, Vancouver, and J. J. Dougan, secretary.

The members of the deputation met this morning and discussed the matters which are to be presented. Several amendments to the School Act are asked for by the association, which they believe will conduce to its better working.

MORGAN'S LATEST MOVE.

Secures Control of Six Additional Telephone Companies in Indiana and Ohio.

Toledo, O., Dec. 20.—It is officially announced that J. P. Morgan & Co. have purchased the controlling interest in the six additional independent telephone companies of Indiana and Ohio. The system thus acquired includes 101,500 telephones and 40,000 miles of long distance lines, covering Ohio, Indiana and Michigan.

DIVIDING INDIAN COAST DISTRICT

Three Agencies Have Been Created to Facilitate Work.

In order to improve the administration of the Indian department in British Columbia, what is known as the Coast District, has been divided into three agencies, an agent having been appointed for each. Formerly, this large district was attended to by one man, Mr. Lorenz, whose headquarters were at Metlakatla.

Owing to ill-health Mr. Lorenz resigned, and his place was filled by the apopintment of John McIntosh, of Port Essington. Queen Charlotte Islands has been converted into a separate district, with Charles Perry, of Port Simpson, agent, and Iver Fougner, of Bella Coola, has been appointed agent of the southern portion of the Coast District. The new agents, therefore, are Messrs. John McIntosh, Charles Perry and Iver Fougner.

BOARD OF TRADE WANT LOW RATES

TO MEET CITY MEMBERS REGARDING THE C. N. R.

Points Which They Think Should Be Covered by Contract.

(From Monday's Daily.)

Several matters affecting the proposed Canadian Northern Railway extensions, and legislation generally, will be laid before Premier McBride and his colleagues in the representation of Victoria—Messrs. Davey, Behnsen and Thomson—by the council of the board of trade to-morrow morning.

The points which the council will place before the members include the following:

That in view of the promise made by Mr. Mann to the railway committee of the board of trade that he believes that a five-tenths grade can be secured on the proposed railway, and that freight and passenger rates will be reduced accordingly, the board urges that the contract provide for the lowest possible grades and for freight and passenger rates based on the low grade contemplated.

That complete transcontinental trains be made up at Victoria and conveyed by express ferry to the mainland.

That Victoria be the company's headquarters for British Columbia.

That the car shops, etc., for the Vancouver Island system be located at Victoria.

In regard to connection with the mainland C. H. Lugrin has been asked to furnish the board with any information he may have in respect to car-ferries existing elsewhere.

While the city members and the council are together, it is likely that some general matters of legislation will be taken up.

DECORATION FOR AVIATOR.

Paris, Dec. 20.—Count de Lambert, the well known aviator, has been nominated for the Legion of Honor.

EX-PREMIER SEMLIN VISITING THE CAPITAL

Pioneer Legislator, Hale and Hearty, Here on Holiday Visit.

(From Monday's Daily.)

C. E. Semlin, of Cache Creek, Cariboo, one of the pioneer legislators of the province, and who was premier about ten years ago, is in the city, a guest at the Empress hotel. Despite his three score years and ten, Mr. Semlin is in vigorous health, and can look forward to a long term of life yet.

Chatting with a Times man this morning, Mr. Semlin said he saw many signs of improvement in Victoria. He predicts a great future for the city of which he has long been an admirer. Mr. Semlin is no stranger to Victoria having spent, as he says himself, many pleasant years here in attendance on his legislative duties. Mr. Semlin recalled that it was in 1871, in the first legislature after British Columbia joined the Confederation, that he entered political life in this province.

Mr. Semlin said that conditions in his section of the province were most satisfactory. Last season, from an agricultural standpoint, was somewhat disappointing, but better things were hoped for next year. The people of Cariboo, he says, are looking forward to the advent of the Canadian Northern railway to do much towards the development of a section of the province which has long been in need of transportation facilities. Very little snow has fallen so far at Cache Creek, and the settlers there are looking forward to an open winter.

Mr. Semlin will be here for several days.

SMELTER POSSIBLE ON IKEDA PROPERTY

Prince Rupert Would Benefit Greatly by This if it Starts.

Prince Rupert, Dec. 17.—"I wouldn't be surprised to see a smelter established at Ikeda Bay," said E. M. Sandilands, gold commissioner and mining recorder of the Queen Charlotte Islands. "The mining property at Ikeda," said Mr. Sandilands, "has been taken over by the Trail smelter people, a concern that ranks among the largest mining operators of the country. If a smelter were built there, it would mean development in other directions, and indirectly benefit would accrue to Prince Rupert."

Mr. Sandilands mentioned that development also promises in the Swede Group, near Ikeda, and that litigation having been settled in connection with the McMillan property, activity can also be looked for in that direction.

"In a general sense, big expansion and work, from the mining point of view, may be looked forward to on the islands," were Mr. Sandilands' concluding words.

UNION OF B.C. MUNICIPALITIES

MAYOR HALL RETURNS FROM NORTH VANCOUVER

Some Important Resolutions Placed in Hands of Executive Committee.

(From Monday's Daily.)

Mayor Hall and Ald. Henderson, who were delegates from the Victoria city council to the annual meeting of the Union of Municipalities, held at North Vancouver, returned home on Sunday evening. Much good work was done in the interests of the municipalities throughout the province. It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Salmon Arm.

The various recommendations submitted by the legislative committee of the Victoria city council received consideration and were placed in the hands of the executive committee who will see that the necessary recommendations are made to the legislature. The necessary changes in respect to the act for the creation of a board of control were laid before the executive committee. No suggestion was made respecting the system of recall, as it was felt that such provision will require an amendment to the B. N. A. act.

Mayor Bell, of Enderby, was elected president; Ald. Planta, of Nanaimo, vice-president, and Reeve Rose, of Surrey, secretary-treasurer. The following were chosen as the executive committee: Mayor Robinson (Kamloops), Reeve Byrne (Burnaby), Reeve Evans (Salmon Arm), Reeve Kickbush (Chilliwack), Reeve McNaught (North Vancouver), and Reeve Quick (Saanich).

W. McKay, secretary of the Union of Municipalities of Ontario, wrote suggesting that the Union of Canadian Municipalities should be dissolved and an association of provincial municipalities formed instead. This aroused a spirited discussion and Mayor Hall, of Victoria, moved that the secretary reply that the British Columbia Union could not concur in his views, but would support the Canadian Union of Municipalities. This was seconded by Ald. MacMillan, of Vancouver, and carried.

Other resolutions which were passed were as follows:

That a committee be appointed to secure all the necessary data dealing with the cement merger question.

That the Municipal act be amended so that householders may vote on rental.

That the legislation be amended to compel owners in subdividing properties to leave lanes for public use.

That local improvement by-laws be simplified.

That the Dominion government be asked to contribute to roads and bridges in the railway belt, where they draw a revenue from timber lands and water powers.

That the government be asked to appoint a committee of three men familiar with municipal legislation to assist the government in its efforts to simplify and codify the municipal laws of the province.

That the Municipal Clauses act be amended to allow any municipality to incorporate a telephone system within its boundaries and to connect with adjoining municipalities.

That cities and municipalities should be dealt with in separate acts referring to each.

That the government in its agreement with the Canadian Northern railway company should provide that the railway should run into the city of Kamloops instead of to a point near the town as at present proposed.

That the convention urge on the provincial government the necessity for establishing on the lower mainland a home for aged and indigent persons.

A motion was introduced asking the minister of justice to amend the Indian act, so that any white man put under the "Siwash" act should be punished just the same as if he were an Indian.

Mayor Bell, of Enderby, said that a white man "siwashed" at present, could get drunk the next day and was punished for ordinary drunkenness, where an Indian got the limit. He thought both should be treated alike.

Mayor Hall, of Victoria, said it should go further. A year was not long enough to keep a man "siwashed." He thought also that the photograph of such a man should be placed in all the bar-rooms of the district.

Mr. A. E. Kealy said he recognized the difficulties of enforcing the act. He thought the suggestion of Mayor Hall about photographing was a very sensible one. The executive should thresh it out thoroughly, and bring it before the minister of justice.

Ald. MacMillan opposed the motion. He did not think it right to stigmatise an unfortunate victim of the drink habit in this manner. He characterized it as sumptuary law. The question could not be settled by half-measures. Complete prohibition alone would be effective.

The motion was referred to the executive.

INJUNCTION REFUSED.

Montreal Property Owners Will Vote on Proposed New Electric Light Plant.

Montreal, Dec. 20—The court has dismissed the petition for injunction to restrain proprietors from voting on the question of a civic lighting plant on Thursday next. Voting consequently will take place. The city proposes to spend $2,000,000 on a lighting plant, obtaining power from burning of garbage.