

### THE NEW BANK ACT BEFORE THE HOUSE

#### Minister of Finance Plans for Needed Reforms

#### WANTS INSPECTION AND GOLD RESERVE

#### Compulsory Annual Audit of all Banks Strong Feature of New Canadian Regulations--Concerning Bank Mergers.

Special to The Standard.  
Ottawa, Dec. 17.—Early in this afternoon's sitting Hon. Mr. White introduced the new bank act. First, he put through the House the necessary resolution which authorizes the expenditure of public money for an outside audit and then introduced the bill itself. On both proceedings he was closely questioned, and it was fully an hour before the House passed to the next order of business.

In dealing with the resolution, Hon. Mr. White explained that it was proposed to institute a system of audit. The minister, if he had reason to suspect the correctness of returns made by the bank would insist on an independent audit by a person appointed as auditor by the shareholders. Mr. Fleming's bill of 1911 made this external audit permissible, this bill took it a step further, by making audit imperative. The shareholders of each bank would appoint the auditor and the government might call upon him for the inspection of the bank.

Would have Good Moral Effect.  
Mr. Carvell wanted to know whether the auditing would go into particular accounts. If that were not provided for the provision would be of little use. Mr. Emmerson said that practically the auditor would be a nominee of the directors.

Hon. Mr. White doubted this, and drew attention to the great moral effect on the staff of an outside audit. Shareholders who feel that the directors should be very careful in making the appointment, and public opinion would force the banks to appoint auditors of high standing.

The resolution being passed, Hon. Mr. White introduced the bill. The bill, he stated, would extend the act of July, 1912. Additional safeguards had been thrown about the organization of banks to protect the shareholders. No large expenditures could be made by the provisional directors until the treasury board had been satisfied that the organizing expenses were reasonable. If a bank was not successfully launched, the money collected could not be expended in commissions, etc., except by resolution of the subscribers or an order of the court.

Reverting to the audit, he said it was in accordance with the English practice, and would guard against such occurrences as these connected with the Ontario, Sovereign and Farmers banks. The form of annual statement, he said, was sixty years old, and had been outgrown; additional information was to be given to the shareholders.

Continued on page two.

### WHEW! BUT DEAR OLD HALIFAX IS MUCH PERTURBED

#### Hockey Player's Alleged Telegram Causes "Jimmy" Lithgow to Wax Very Wrathily—Threatens Investigation.

Special to The Standard.  
Halifax, Dec. 17.—The Moncton Times yesterday states that the Victoria's executive were in receipt of a telegram from Chester Gregory stating that Halifax players had offered him first \$200 and then \$300 per game for every game played in Halifax, if he would persuade New Glasgow to desert Moncton and play with Halifax, but that instead of complying, Gregory wired to Moncton the story. President Lithgow of the M. P. H. A. says: "I will take this matter up tomorrow," he said, "I will ask Mr. Gregory if it is true and if so I will proceed to deal with the case and make him prove his statement. When he does he must name the parties he refers to and prove it stringently and rigidly. Failing to do this, Mr. Gregory must apologise to Halifax openly and with as much prominence as that accorded this report."

### NOVA SCOTIA'S DEAN DROPPED DEAD AT FONT

#### Rev. E. P. Crawford Stricken in All Saints Cathedral, Halifax.

#### WAS PREPARING TO BAPTIZE CHILD.

#### Prominent Divine Succumbed to Heart Failure While Per- forming Religious Duty— Will be Great Loss to Church

Special to The Standard.  
Halifax, Dec. 17.—Death came suddenly this afternoon to the dean of Nova Scotia, Rev. E. P. Crawford, of All Saints Cathedral. Dean Crawford was in the cathedral preparing to administer the rite of baptism to the child of Samuel and Mrs. Vening, who were standing at the font ready for the ceremony. Rev. Mr. Crawford approached them, and was asking for the name of the child, when he fell to the floor dead. He had succumbed to heart failure.

Dean Crawford came to Halifax from Hamilton twenty years ago, to take the rectorship of St. Luke's pro-cathedral. He was a native of Brockville and a half-brother of a former governor of Ontario. His wife was a Miss Henderson of Kingston. He became dean of Nova Scotia on the death of Dr. Duff, some eight years ago. The deceased dean was very active on behalf of All Saints Cathedral during his incumbency, and he was on the committee which compiled the new hymn book of the Anglican church in Canada, which contained some of his compositions. He was in the state at All Saints Cathedral Thursday night with a bodyguard of clergy.

Friday morning the body will leave by rail for Brockville where the funeral will take place on Saturday afternoon, at 3 o'clock. A memorial service will be held in Halifax on Sunday evening.

### MUST ESTABLISH ARTISTS SOCIETY

#### France Has Placed a Tax of Two Per Cent. on Sale of Paintings—Will Prevent Fraud.

Paris, Dec. 17.—After a lengthy discussion, a committee of the Chamber of Deputies has pronounced in favor of a bill brought forward by Deputy Andre Hesse to establish a tax of two per cent. on the price of any work of art each time it changes hands at a public sale. The bill provides that the proceeds of the tax shall be given to the artist, or to his heirs for fifty years after the artist's death.

The artists' interest will be vested in an organization to be created similar to the Society of Authors to which the artists will furnish a full list and description of their works. This, it is pointed out, will result in the establishment of a register of modern art, which will be not only of historical interest but of great value in preventing fraud.

### A MILLION DOLLAR PICTURE SYNDICATE

#### Toronto Man Floats Company With Million Dollar Capital to Establish Chain of Canadian Picture Theatres.

Toronto, Dec. 17.—A syndicate to operate motion picture theatres has been formed in Canada, and plans are now under way for the establishment of the chain of these theatres throughout Canada. H. B. Brock, president of the American Kinema Color, is also president of the Canadian company. Sir Henry Pellatt, A. O. Beardsmore, C. B. Charlewood and G. T. Brown are among the directors, and Edward Cronyn, of Toronto, is the funder of the company. There is over a million dollars invested. A plant will be established either in Montreal or for the production of dramatic subjects which will cost somewhere between \$100,000 and \$200,000.

### GREEK NAVAL VICTORY HALTS PEACE CONFERENCE

#### Turkish Delegates Refuse to Treat With Greece

#### UNITED STATES MAY ACT AS MEDIATOR

#### Hope is Expressed that Adjournment is Only Temporary, but Result Doubtful—Austria Back- ing Turks.

London, Dec. 17.—The peace conference was launched yesterday, only to be interrupted today by a complication resulting from the policy of Greece in waging war and negotiating peace simultaneously. The Turkish delegation announced today that it was empowered to confer only with the three Balkan kingdoms which signed the armistice at Thessalonika, and, as a consequence, the conference was interrupted. The Turkish delegation expressed the belief that the suspension was merely temporary and that a pathway toward the resumption of the meetings will be found. The prospects for a successful issue of the conference are enhanced by the declaration of the war, that they have been given plenary powers to arrange and sign a treaty of peace. How far their improved military position, with the encouragement Austria is credited with giving them, may stiffen their backs against the allies' terms, remains the chief factor of the situation.

The first sitting of the ambassadorial court of appeals, as it is called, was held in the foreign office today. The ambassadors of five continental powers conferred with Sir Edward Grey, the British secretary for foreign affairs, for more than three hours. The different nations advanced their views on the various phases of the eastern problem.

The contingency that mediation may ultimately offer the only solution in the war was the subject of much discussion. The heads of the Bulgarian and Serbian delegations, during the course of interviews, emphasized that the Balkan States might be in a position to act as peace makers, as President Roosevelt did between Russia and Japan.

The conference of the ambassadors, notwithstanding the different names by which it has been called with a view to minimize it, will either be a complete failure or for consequences which will have, surpass in importance the achievements of all other diplomatic gatherings since the congress of Berlin in 1878.

Not only will the ambassadorial conference exercise a powerful influence on the decisions of the peace conference in St. James Palace in Turkey as well as the Balkan States desires to have the support of the powers, but in the event that the Turkish understanding is not satisfactory to the powers the present ambassadorial conference will indicate how to correct the decisions arrived at just as the Berlin congress modified the boundaries of the Balkans arranged five months before by the treaty of San Stefano between Russia and Turkey.

Dr. Danef, the president of the Bulgarian chamber of deputies, who is the most brilliant among the heads of the delegations, was full of vivacity and ardor in speaking on the possibility of American mediation, said:

"If an understanding between the Balkan states and Turkey is impossible, notwithstanding the friendly advice which will certainly come from the conference of the ambassadors, I believe that American intervention will be most opportune and will be received as quite justifiable on account of American interests in the Balkans and Turkey which are not lacking and have sufficient importance to entitle Washington to offer its good offices for an impartial settlement of the conflict."

Greek Delegates Busy.

General Danglis, aide to Crown Prince Constantine of Greece, arrived in London tonight. He brought important documents for Premier Venizelos, who has also received an avalanche of telegrams concerning the situation in Greece and the Greek military and naval operations. Greece alone among the Balkan States is fighting Turkey on four different fields, in the east at Saloniki, to the north, and on the Adriatic and Aegean Seas. The whole Greek delegation is busy deciphering despatches. The Greek Premier, pointing to them tonight with his usual calm exclaimed: "Now nobody will any more say that it was an exaggeration to have my delegates composed of thirty-two persons."

### GREEKS CONTINUE THEIR VICTORIOUS CAMPAIGN

#### Fort Bizani, Regarded as Impregnable, Can Hold Out But Few Hours Longer Under Murderous Artillery Fire.

Athens, Dec. 17.—The continued assaults by the Greeks on Fort Bizani, the key to the town of Janina, and regarded by the Turks as impregnable, have been so successful that its defenders will be able to resist only a few hours longer, according to a semi-official account of the fighting around Janina.

The batteries of Bizani were silenced after a bombardment which lasted all day long. One shell destroyed the artillery magazine while others put out of operation in succession the guns of the enemies' batteries. The right wing of the Greek forces is advancing towards Fort Drom at the summit of the mountain opposite Bizani.

Great confusion prevails among the defenders of this fort. The guns are being removed and the Turks are leaving.

General Sapountzakis, who is in personal command, has aroused the enthusiasm of the Greek troops by his courage. The fall of Bizani will free the road to Janina.

The government has warmly congratulated its commander in chief and officers of the fleet on yesterday's naval success.

### DETAILS OF THE GREEK SEA BATTLE

#### According to Greek Commander or Turkish Ships Retreated Considerably Damaged After Engagement.

Athens, Dec. 17.—The ministry of marine has made public the details of naval battle fought yesterday outside the Dardanelles, as reported by the commander of the Greek destroyer squadron.

"Yesterday morning," says the report, "our fleet, consisting of the battleships Spetsai Pear and Pydra, the armored cruiser Georgio Averof and four scouts cruised towards the northern side of the entrance of the Dardanelles. Acting under orders from the commander-in-chief I joined the fleet with nine destroyers."

The Turkish warships formed in line of battle under the guns of the forts at Sedd-i-Bahr, and opened fire. We replied at a distance of nine miles (about 5 1/2 miles) advancing to three miles. Both the forts and the warships engaged in the firing while the Mesudieh and light flotilla of the enemy stationed under the forts of Kum Kaleh also began operations.

"After an hour's engagement, the enemy retired in disorder, considerably damaged, according to private information."

Dec. 18.—The Turkish cruiser Mesudieh was badly damaged in the naval engagement, according to a Constantinople despatch to the Daily Telegraph.

### ANNUAL POULTRY EXHIBITION WELL UP TO STANDARD

#### Westmorland Poultry and Pet Stock Association Opened Under Favorable Circum- stances.

Special to The Standard.  
Moncton, Dec. 17.—The annual exhibition of the Westmorland Poultry and Pet Stock Association was opened this evening under favorable auspices. In the absence of Mayor Robinson, Alderman Gross opened the show and speeches were also made by ex-Mayor Kelly, Secretary for Agriculture, Dr. O. E. Price, M. P. P., Seth Johns, poultry expert, and George Robertson, poultry judge.

The number of exhibits is not quite as large as last year, but in quality birds are well up to standard. The prizes so far awarded are as follows:—Mince, hens and pullets—1st, Hartland Poultry Yards; 2nd, Hartland Poultry Yards; 3rd, Hartland Poultry Yards. Cockerels, 1st, Hartland Poultry Yards; 2nd, Hartland Poultry Yards; 3rd, Hartland Poultry Yards. Buff Cochins, 1st, Hartland Poultry Yards; 2nd, Hartland Poultry Yards; 3rd, Hartland Poultry Yards. Dark Brahma, 1st, Hartland Poultry Yards; 2nd, Hartland Poultry Yards; 3rd, Hartland Poultry Yards. Rocks, white, cocks and hens, 1st, Hartland Poultry Yards. The same concerns took second on cockerels and third on pullets. In white Leghorn, R. C. White, Hartland Poultry Yards got third on cocks, hens and pullets.

### MR. AMES SCORES IN THE NAVAL DEBATE

#### IRON WORKER HIGH OFFICIAL NOW IN JAIL

#### John T. Butler, Vice-president of Union Unable to Give Bond.

#### ONE DEFENDANT WAS RELEASED.

#### Judge Anderson Scores Pris- oners in Scathing Address— Famous Case Will Go to Jury in Eight Days.

Indianapolis, Dec. 17.—John T. Butler, Buffalo, N.Y., vice-president of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, tonight was locked in jail after his bond of \$10,000 had been increased to \$15,000 and after the court had said he committed perjury in testifying in his own defense.

At the conclusion of the day's session in which the prosecution and the defence rested their cases, with the prospect that the trial will be placed in the hands of the jury in eight days, Federal Judge Anderson delivered from his seat a scathing arraignment of what he termed "Adultery that has taken place here in the last two weeks."

Judge Anderson's remarks were made after the jury had been retired for the day and after Clarence E. Dowd of Rochester, N.Y., formerly organizer for the International Association of Machinists in Detroit had been discharged on the ground that sufficient evidence did not exist against him. Dowd was the only defendant to be discharged, leaving forty men whose cases are to go to the jury.

Butler, earlier in the day, entered a general denial that he knew of any dynamite plots.

District Attorney Miller arose in court and charged "that Butler had been on a drunk for two weeks," and that since being in court he had expressed a wish to be in Canada.

"This man Butler has committed deliberate, wilful and malicious perjury," said District Attorney Miller. "He knows he is guilty, and has stated to me that he would go to the United States and remain in Quebec as this was not an extradition offence."

"In consideration of the fact that he has expressed a wish that he had remained in Canada, and because of his perjury, I ask that his bond be increased."

"I will increase his bond to \$15,000 and the Marshal will take him in custody," said the Judge.

As he was unable to procure bond Butler was taken to jail.

Concerning motions for the dismissal of other defendants Judge Anderson stated that before the defense began its case he felt inclined to discharge certain defendants, but that "the attitude of the defence's witnesses on the stand" had changed his mind.

Four days on each side was fixed for the argument before the jury, to begin tomorrow. As soon as Senator J. W. Kern announced that the defence rested, the government stated it had nothing to offer in rebuttal.

#### Member for St. Antoine Contributes Able Address

#### CO-PARTNERSHIP WITH EMPIRE

#### Gift of Dreadnaughts Merely Freewill Offer- ing From Canada— Permanent Policy Will be Decided by People.

Special to The Standard.  
Ottawa, Dec. 17.—The naval debate today rose to a higher point than it has held since the three first speeches of Mr. Borden, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Hazen.

H. B. Ames, member for St. Antoine division of Montreal, contributed to it a speech which, in many respects, may be described as model parliamentary debating. He spoke with unusual accuracy of phrase and great clearness, and he took up the constitutional aspect of the case and gave it a closely reasoned, cogent exposition.

Following the line indicated by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Liberals were talking a good deal about autonomy. Ames' speech was in answer to that line of argument. Mr. Germain followed with a speech of his usual discursive sort. Mr. Wilcox followed Mr. Germain.

Opposition Policy Scored.  
In resuming the debate Mr. Ames distinguished between the special action and a permanent policy. The gift of battleships was "immediate aid" in the form which the Admiralty declared such aid should take. The opposition policy would bring neither immediate nor effective aid. It denied the urgency and the opposition was trying to compare permanent policies whereas the permanent policy of the government had not yet been disclosed.

Mr. Ames then argued that before a permanent policy could be embarked upon three conditions must be met. These were physical, constitutional and considerations of honor. So far as physical considerations went Canada had neither shipbuilding plants nor a trained naval force. These conditions could not be met in a day. As regards the constitutional feature, he held that defence, to be effective, must be common and that common defence involved joint control. Joint control shadowed a change in the relationship between Canada and the Mother Land. The problem had been looming in the horizon for several years. Sir Wilfrid Laurier saw it, and procrastinated. Mr. Monk saw it and cried out against the beginning of the new trend of affairs.

"Mr. Borden, seeing with equal clearness what the future has in store, has accepted the responsibility and glories in it as the fulfillment of our manifest destiny."

The Danger of the Day.  
Mr. Ames briefly reviewed Canadian history, showing that there was a time when it was necessary to tend for autonomy, but that time had passed. Along the road marked autonomy, we can make practically no further progress, said he. Instead of declaring ourselves a sovereign state, short of becoming independent of the Empire. The danger of today is not that our autonomy will be encroached upon but that under cover of this noble name individualism may be pushed to excess."

Continued on page 2.

### SUGGESTS BREST AS GREAT FRENCH PORT

#### Son of Former President of French Republic Points Advan- tages of Brest Over Havre.

Paris, Dec. 17.—Claude Casimir-Perier, son of the former president of the republic, lectured tonight before the Geographical Society of France on the subject of Brest as a trans-Atlantic terminal. He pointed out that owing to the limitations of the port of Havre, the French line was now ninth in rank among the great steamship lines.

The steamer France got in and out of Havre only with the greatest difficulty, and it was impossible to say what would happen when the company was forced by competition, to build larger ships. He urged the transfer of the passenger terminus to Brest, whose magnificent roadstead had no equal in the world. The harbor could be altered to meet the actual requirements in three years at a cost of only \$4,000,000.

### SMUGGLING CHINESE INTO AUSTRALIA

#### Widespread Plot Traced to Secret Society in Hong Kong—Worked With Dupli- cate Naturalization Papers.

Sydney, N. S. W., Dec. 17.—Officials of the department of external affairs have received reports of sensational disclosures from representatives in Hong Kong that a secret society has existed for years for the purpose of smuggling Chinese into Australia. It is learned that following seizures made in a club in Hong Kong, members of the society were scattered over the interior of the Empire. The scheme is said to have been worked out by the duplication of naturalization papers.