

TWO THOUSAND PEOPLE HOMELESS

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

Damage Estimated at One Million Dollars—Several Lives Reported to Have Been Lost.

Hot Springs, Ark., Feb. 25.—This city was visited by a disastrous fire to-day, causing a loss estimated at \$1,000,000. Three or more lives are reported to have been lost.

The fire started at 3.30 o'clock this morning in the Grand Central hotel, at Central avenue and Chippel streets, in the northern part of the city. A high wind was blowing, and the flames quickly spread to the south and west. The Plateau hotel, the Hotel Moody, the Garnier flats and several lodging houses were quickly destroyed.

The fire department rendered good service until 6 o'clock, when the water pressure gave out, and the threatened area was left to the mercy of the flames.

But the general store, one of the largest in the city, is to be lost. About 100 houses were destroyed before the flames were checked. The districts between Quachita avenue and Prospect street were swept by the flames. More than 2,000 people are homeless.

After the water pressure gave out, bucket brigades were formed, and hundreds of citizens and visitors volunteered their services. At 9 o'clock the fire was still burning, but was pronounced to be under control.

The spring season always attracts a large number of visitors to this resort. The city has been filling up with visitors for several weeks, and it is estimated that fully 20,000 of these sojourners are here. The three large hotels, the Arlington, the Eastman and the Park were not injured.

The firemen put forth every effort to save the court house and jail, but their efforts were of no avail, both structures being consumed. Many valuable records were burned, and the twenty prisoners in the jail were rescued with difficulty.

The Jewish synagogues, the Central Methodist church and the Synagogue of Belding and Sherin Ailes were among those destroyed. The district occupied by the bath houses, the entire government reservation on the east side of Central avenue, escaped the flames.

Later Report.
Hot Springs, Ark., Feb. 25.—Fire swept the southern portion of this city early to-day, doing immense damage and causing the known deaths of three persons. The losses are estimated variously at from one million to one and a half millions of dollars. Three hundred people have been found among the ruins, and several persons are reported missing. The death list may be increased. The identification of the victims has not been established.

The fire, which started at 3.30 o'clock this morning, was the worst this state has ever experienced, and in five hours had burned over an area of one square mile. Among the buildings destroyed are the Grand Central hotel, the Lee House, Moody hotel, Plateau hotel, Columbia hotel, the County court house, all fire stations, the Catholic church and many residences and stores, conservatively estimated to number from 200 to 250.

CATHEDRAL CONSECRATED.
Berlin, Feb. 27.—Emperor William's Mecca for Protestants, the Evangelical cathedral, was consecrated today in the presence of a vast brilliant assembly, among whom were delegates from the Protestant churches of all the world.

The service was simple and stately, and was enriched with wonderful music. The nave was filled with hundreds of well-known personages, including the ambassador and apostles of most of the world's religions, and the members of the cabinet and foreign clergy. Among the latter were Bishop of Ripon, the Right Rev. William Boyd Carpenter, Swiss ministers and Scandinavian preachers, the latter wearing white ruffs around their necks, after the fashion of the time of Gustavus Adolphus. Behind those were placed, according to precedence, a great number of senators and consuls.

The Emperor and Empress were present, having upon one side of them Prince Arthur of Connaught, and on the other Crown Prince Frederick of Denmark, with thirty-four of the Princes of Germany, and the Princes of the German states.

Six Men Arrested in Connection With Tragedy at Paterson, N. J.
New York, Feb. 27.—Six men have been arrested by the police of Paterson, N. J., in connection with the death of a young woman whose body, almost nude, was found on Saturday at the foot of a railroad embankment on the outskirts of that city. The victim has been identified as Lillian Horton, or Belle Patterson, as she was sometimes called. She resided in a short time ago at the Small hotel, Eighth avenue, in this city. The officials say her death was caused by exposure and ill-treatment.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.
Kingston, Feb. 24.—Geo. D. Lewis, who served through the Boer war with the Kaffir Rifles, tried to commit suicide to-day by swallowing laudanum, because, being friendless, he felt life was not worth living. He is a Welshman. The magistrate sent him down for a week to recover.

TWO KILLED.

Planter and His Brother Shot During a Quarrel With Negroes.

Yazoo City, Miss., Feb. 27.—A quarrel between Edward Stevens, a prominent planter, and four negroes, has led to the killing of Stevens and his brother, W. H. Stevens, and the wounding of a negro named Wilder, one of the slayers of the Stevens brothers. The negroes escaped.

WAGES OF BRICKLAYERS.

Nine Thousand Men in New York Will Receive Increased Pay After Wednesday.

New York, Feb. 27.—Over 9,000 bricklayers in this city, in accordance with their agreement with the Master Builders' Association, will have their wages raised from 65 to 70 cents an hour on Wednesday. The highest wages ever paid to the bricklayers in this country, says the Times. Eight hours with 70 cents an hour is \$5.60, and in the busy season almost without exception bricklayers work 12 hours a day. For every hour overtime they will receive double pay, so for the extra four hours they will receive \$11.20 for the day. The present agreement was made last May.

ROJESTVENSKY WAS NOT JUSTIFIED

IN OPENING FIRE ON BRITISH FISHING BOATS

Decision of the Commission—No Torpedo Boats Among or in Vicinity of Trawlers.

Paris, Feb. 25, 3.30 p.m.—The decision of the international commission of inquiry into the North Sea incident was publicly announced at the closing session of the commission to-day. The decision lengthily sets forth the circumstances and incidents and gives the opinions of the admirals of the various important points involved.

The decision says that delay of the Russian transport Kamchatka, following the breaking down of her machinery, was perhaps the cause of the incident. The commander of the Kamchatka signalled to Admiral Rojestvensky during the evening that he had been attacked by torpedo boats. The admiral therefore had reason to believe he was attacked and gave orders for strict vigilance against the possible approach of torpedo boats.

The majority of the commission considers that Admiral Rojestvensky's orders were not excessive in time of war, particularly under the circumstances, and that he had every reason to consider the situation very alarming.

"The commission," the decision says, "recognize unanimously that the fishing fleet committed no hostile act; the majority of the commissioners being of the opinion that there were not, neither among the fishing boats, nor in their vicinity, a torpedo boat."

The decision says: "The opening of fire by Admiral Rojestvensky was not justified."

The decision further says the Russian commissioner did not share in the latter opinion.

"In any event," the decision continues, "the commissioners are glad to follow the incident, that there was such uncertainty concerning the danger to the squadron to warrant Admiral Rojestvensky in continuing his route. However, the majority regrets that the commander did not inform the neighboring maritime powers of what had occurred."

The decision concludes as follows: "The commissioners declare that their views as formulated are not of a nature to set any direct upon the military valor nor upon the sentiments of humanity of Admiral Rojestvensky and the personnel of his squadron."

EXPLOSION IN MINE.

Fifteen Men Are Known to Be Dead—Fire Prevents Work of Rescue.

Welch, W. Va., Feb. 27.—Fifteen men are known to be dead as the result of the explosion in shaft No. 1 of the United States Coal & Coke Co. The number of dead may be even greater, as it is impossible now to explore the mine because of the fire, which is still burning. The mine is ten miles from here on a branch of the Norfolk & Western railroad, and all the wires have been down since the explosion.

REFORMS IN MACEDONIA.

Subject Brought Up in the Imperial House of Commons.

London, Feb. 27.—In the House of Commons to-day during the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, Mr. Stevenson (advanced Liberal) introduced an amendment declaring that the time had arrived for the government to take steps to insure the execution of reforms in Macedonia and by the appointment of Christian governors responsible to the powers.

Mr. Percy, under secretary for foreign affairs, replying, said the government was not satisfied with the progress made, but was not prepared to press the matter unduly.

THE JAPANESE ARE SHELLING MUKDEN

GREAT DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE BIG MORTARS

Report That General Engagement Is in Progress—Force Moving Against Railway Line.

Newchwang, Feb. 27.—Via Tientsin, Feb. 27, 6 p.m.—According to a person who has just returned here from the front, the Japanese are shelling Mukden with 11-inch mortars. The bombardment, which was recently recommenced, is further reported to have caused great damage far behind the Russian lines.

Advices from Chinese sources say that a general engagement is in progress all along the line. The heaviest firing is reported to be on the right, and General Kuraki is said to be sweeping far north and threatening to drive the Russians back on the railroad.

A special force is reported to be moving from the south and east with the intention of cutting off the Russian communication by railroad with Vladivostok.

RUSSIANS CONTINUE THE BOMBARDMENT.

Tobio, 27, 6 p.m.—The only announcement to-day from the headquarters of the Japanese armies in Manchuria was a brief statement to the effect that the Russians continued a bombardment on Saturday and Sunday, that the weather is very cold and that it is snowing.

KOUROPATKIN REPORTS JAPANESE ACTIVITY.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.—Gen. Kouropatkin, in a dispatch dated February 26th, announces that the Japanese have commenced cannonading in the direction of Ganto and Wanfu passes.

REPORTS OF SEVERE HAND-TO-HAND FIGHTS.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.—7 p.m.—A dispatch from Gen. Kouropatkin, dated February 26th, says:

"The enemy is continuing the offensive against the front of our Tsinchichien detachment, and has turned both its flanks. The Japanese have also advanced against Kankie pass, turning our left flank, but all his attacks on Tangu and Belding have been repulsed. His offensive movement against Bonapoda has also been repulsed. At some of the positions of our riflemen, the Japanese had been flinging themselves madly from noon until dark."

"The Russians, who were greatly outnumbered, sustained repeated attacks, some of which were as high as seventy per cent, in killed or wounded in hand-to-hand fighting with the bayonet."

HAS NOT MADE ANY PROPOSALS FOR PEACE.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 27.—To set at rest rumors which have been printed recently to the great annoyance of the legation here respecting negotiations for peace, it was authoritatively announced at the state department:

"The government of the United States has never received from the Japanese government any request to lay proposals of peace before the Russian government, and of course has never, in any manner, directly or indirectly, approached the Russian government on the subject."

The statement was made directly after Ambassador Takahira, the Japanese minister, had conferred with Secretary Hay. As the minister left the department he announced that he had no news of peace.

TRAVELLERS WIN OUT.

The commercial travellers resident in the province will not have to pay the tax recommended in clause 10 of the railway bill, as the assessment commission. A deputation of them came over from Vancouver on Saturday, and joined forces with the Victoria travel agents, who approached the government on the subject, and obtained assurance that this clause would not be adopted.

"That resident agents representing the firms or corporations carrying on business in the city of British Columbia, and having no branch within this province, be taxed at a rate equal to one-fourth of one per cent. of the amount of their annual sales, and that for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of such sales it be made compulsory for all such agents to keep proper books of account, showing all transactions carried on by them, within the province or on behalf of such persons, firms or corporations."

FORMER MINISTER DEAD.

Groton, Mass., Feb. 27.—After an illness of a few days from pneumonia, Geo. Sewall Boutwell, former governor of Massachusetts and former United States secretary of the treasury, died at his home here early to-day, aged 87 years.

THE TRANSFER OF DEFENCES.

London, Feb. 25.—Norman Bole, a county court judge of British Columbia, has written to the Times stating that on the subject of the withdrawal of the Imperial naval and military forces from Canada has given a rude shock to the fuller development of Empire in Canada. "Some of us wonder," he says, "that the Union Jack has not been recalled on the grounds of economy."

In the United States Senate a bill authorizing the city of Buffalo, N. Y., to construct a tunnel under Lake Erie and Niagara river, and maintain an electric supply water to Buffalo, was passed.

HAS RETURNED FROM TRIP TO EUROPE

FINANCE MINISTER ARRIVES AT OTTAWA

When Abroad he Looked Into Question of Immigration—Grand Trunk Pacific Loan.

Ottawa, Feb. 27.—Hon. W. S. Fielding returned to the city on Saturday from a trip to Europe. While in Austria the minister of finance looked into the question of immigration with a view of directing some of the best class of immigrants to Canada. Hon. Mr. Fielding also visited Eka Peth, the capital of Hungary, and he expected emigration from there to Canada. After visiting Austria and Hungary, Hon. Mr. Fielding proceeded to London, where he assisted in floating the Grand Trunk Pacific loan. He said that the recent announcement of the floating of the company's unguaranteed securities was an indication of the success of the financial operations. This money to be provided for the enterprise are in part to be guaranteed by the government; in part to be raised by the company without government endorsement. It was his portion to be raised without government endorsement that was now dealt with. The arrangement for the issue of the securities to be guaranteed by the government are still in progress. In the meantime the Grand Trunk Pacific have issued their own securities with the guarantee of the old Grand Trunk company. These are the securities that have been so successfully floated.

WILL BE EXECUTED.

It is understood that in the case of Maxon, who General Inant, child in Toronto bay, the law will take its course, and the unfortunate man will be hanged on March 10th.

Sunday Observance.

The Supreme court to-day gave judgment in the Sunday observance cases. It decided that a provincial legislature has no power to enact a draft bill submitted to the court for the regulation of Sunday labor, the majority of the court judges, Mr. Justice Nesbitt and Mr. Justice Idington dissenting. It refrained from answering certain other questions bearing upon the opening of parks and pleasure grounds on Sunday, the operation of electric cars and trams, work by barbers and bakers and hunting on Sunday.

WAREHOUSES AND ELEVATORS BURNED

DAMAGES ESTIMATED AT FIVE MILLION DOLLARS

New Orleans, La., Scene of Conflagration—Fire Swept Over Distance of Ten Blocks.

New Orleans, La., Feb. 27.—With the fire that destroyed its immense terminals still burning, beyond beyond the power to do further damage, the Illinois Central railroad, which occupies a large section as the Texas coal, forces will be put to work to clear away the debris, and that elevators will be promptly rebuilt on a more elaborate and substantial scale than before. Meantime the officials of the railroad are engaged in formulating plans that will enable them to handle the traffic now on its way here from the West and to avoid any material diversion of freight from the city.

Conservative estimates figure the immediate loss by the fire at \$5,000,000. The wharves covered 4,750,000 feet, over a distance of ten blocks. Of this wharves 3,500 feet and what it contained was destroyed, the remainder at the upper end of the terminals being saved through the fact that the wind blew strongly in the opposite direction.

The fire started in the conveyors to the elevator "D." It spread with remarkable rapidity, the sparks dropping into all barns, wharves and extending the flames in every direction. Ten ships were lying at the dock when the fire started, but all except two were towed into the river and escaped without damage. The Illinois, of the Leland line, had her rails, cabin house, masts, etc., wiped clean off, and the Cycle was burned about the prow and sides.

Superintendent Donn, who directed the forces of the railroad company for several hours, said to-day that it was probable the piers, elevators and sheds could be restored within a year. In his opinion the fire originated from spontaneous combustion.

THE LOSS.

New Orleans, La., Feb. 27.—The fire at the Illinois Central terminals in this city had burned out by 4 a.m., having made a clear sweep of elevators and sheds from a Louisiana avenue to Napoleon avenue. The smouldering ruins will, of course, burn for a day or two.

The wharves destroyed are estimated at \$312,000; two elevators, old and new warehouses, wharf sheds No. 1 to 8 and part of No. 9, new I. C. wharf sheds, \$2,000,000; destroyed, 23,000 bales, \$320,000; 700,000 bushels of grain, \$358,000; 15,000 barrels of sugar, \$800,000; cotton aged cake, 130 carloads, \$97,000; lumber, \$10,823; cement, \$56,200; and \$100 cars of other goods, \$150,000; one hundred freight cars.

\$375,000; ships damaged, \$50,000; private property and other damage, \$216,000.

It is estimated that the insurance on stored freight, etc., will approximate \$4,000,000.

As far as known, the only persons injured were firemen and a laborer.

ALL QUIET AT SMelters.

Nothing Known at Greenwood of Impending Strike of Employees.

For some days past reports have been current of impending trouble at smelters of the interior owing to the defeat of the eight-hour bill, some rumors being to the effect the employees at Greenwood were already out.

The Times this morning wired to its Greenwood correspondent for a statement regarding the situation, and has received the following reply:

"Nothing known here of any impending strike by smelter men."

CANALS FREE.

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—Canals will be free for another year. An order in council has been passed remitting the tolls for the coming season.

CIVIC MATTERS BEFORE COUNCIL

LIST OF AMENDMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED

Recommendation of Improving Lighting Plant Will Come Up—Relations With School Board.

(From Monday's Daily.)

Among the matters to come before the city council at its regular session this evening will be the resolution of Ald. Stewart requiring the reconsideration of the amendments to the Municipal Clauses Act to be proposed to the provincial legislature. The reasons for this motion have already been dealt with at length by the Times, and doubtless an explanation of the procedure by which Ald. Fell expected to present the list to the law-makers of the province before they had been duly considered by the rest of the council will be furnished by him.

Another matter will be the consideration of a report from the streets, bridges and sewers committee, recommending the raising of \$11,000 for the purchase of additional electric lighting plant. In view of the absolute necessity for more machinery at the station, the council will likely arrange for the member of the committee of the legislature of that province to be asked to make the purchase of the plant.

The council will also discuss their status with respect to the demands of the school board on the financial situation. This subject has at last come to a head, and the legislature will be asked to make the school board independent of the council with regard to the raising of finances. If a discussion occurs to-night it will probably arise from the reading of the statement of teachers' salaries for the year, presented by the school board in compliance with the council's request.

Should the school board be empowered to levy their own rates, it is very unlikely that the people of the city will be asked to pay more for their education. On the other hand, the trustees become directly answerable to the council, and the council will be able to reduce their estimates and maintain the schools at a proper state of efficiency, and that if they are compelled to do so, they will be able to do so.

The council will also discuss the proposed amendment to the school board, which would give the board the right to levy on real property. The same question is agitated in Vancouver, while the hearing of the new School Act upon the Terminal City school board is in progress. Evidently it is also receiving attention.

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SIR HENRY CREASE HAS PASSED AWAY

DIED AT HIS HOME HERE THIS MORNING

End of Long and Honorable Career—An Ardent Advocate of Confederation—A Splendid Record.

(From Monday's Daily.)

This morning Sir Henry Peling Fellow Crease passed away at the family residence, "Pentrelaw," Cadboro Bay road. He had been ailing for the past several years, and during that period was confined almost entirely to the house. In the last few weeks he failed rapidly, and this forenoon death intervened. Sir Henry Crease had been a residence of Victoria since 1858, and had taken active part in many important political and judicial events that now form a part of the history of British Columbia. During his residence here his marked integrity of character, his energy, never-failing courtesy and other estimable qualities won him general respect, and his lips will be deeply mourned.

He was the oldest son of Capt. Henry Crease, R. N., and Mary, the only daughter of Edward Smith, of Vancouver, near Plymouth, Cornwall, and was born on the 20th of August, 1823. His education was acquired at Mount Radford school, Cornwall, and at Clare College, Cambridge. Graduating from that institution as B. A. in 1847, he was called to the bar two years later, and shortly afterwards visited Canada, his family having taken up their residence in Toronto. Subsequently he returned to England and practiced law at Lincoln's Inn. In 1853 he married Sarah, the eldest daughter of the late Dr. John Lindley, F. R. S., professor of botany at the University College, London. After a few years Sir Henry returned to Canada, and in 1858 came to British Columbia, attracted here by the gold excitement, which then was at its height, some discoveries having been made in Cariboo.

He was the first practicing barrister and "father of the bar" of Vancouver Island and British Columbia. Following his profession for several years he was elected a member for Victoria district in the House of Assembly of Vancouver Island, 1861-62, and in July 1861, he came by Imperial appointment Her Majesty's attorney-general for the then separate colony of British Columbia. He was a member of the legislature of that colony from 1861 until the union of the two colonies on the 10th of November, 1866. Later he received the distinguished appointment of attorney-general of the united colony of British Columbia. This he occupied for four years, taking a leading part in the revision of the laws of British Columbia, preparatory to the union of the province with the Dominion. He was also a member of the committee of the Imperial government, and in the consolidation of the statutes of this province in 1877.

Sir Henry Crease was always a warm advocate of confederation. As president of the legislative council of this province he did everything in his power to forward the movement. On the 13th of May, 1870 just before this province joined the Dominion he received the Imperial appointment of senior puisne judge. He served that capacity until 1896, when he retired.

At the time of his retirement, Sir Henry was the only remaining judge in Canada who had been appointed directly by the Imperial government. His judicial career in British Columbia has been compared to that of Sir Matthew Begbie, who, like Sir Henry Crease, was a member of the first generation of the province. Sir Henry, however, served nine years longer as judge than did the pioneer mentioned. His administration of justice shortly after his official appointment, in the rough parts of British Columbia and among a somewhat lawless population, entitled him to consideration, while the splendid executive ability displayed while the guiding hand in the deliberations of the house of assembly, which brought this colony into confederation, gave him still greater claim to recognition. Therefore when Sir Henry Crease announced his intention to leave the bench in 1896 he received the appended commendation from Lord Aberdeen, then Governor-General of Canada:

"Hon. Sir H. P. Crease, Victoria: "It gives me much pleasure to inform you that the Queen approves of the devotion of knighted upon you on the occasion of your retirement from an honorable judicial career, commencing so many years ago that you are now the only remaining judge in Canada appointed directly by the Imperial government. Accept sincere congratulations and best wishes."

Having come here in the earliest days when law and order were little respected in any part of British Columbia, Sir Henry Crease was full of interesting anecdotes of adventure and thrilling tales of the adventures of the Cariboo miners and early settlers. As an illustration of his unwavering faithfulness in attention to duty the following incident is related: Sir Henry was on circuit in Cassiar in 1877 when he was brown from his horse and seriously injured. Despite two attempts of his companions, he insisted upon completing the assizes and was conveyed in a litter from McDane's creek to Glenora, still in the river, hearing all the cases on the list and giving decisions on all charges brought before him. This is but an instance of the hardness which members of the judiciary had to endure during the sixties and seventies in British Columbia in the performance of the duties pertaining to their office.

Sir Henry resided in New Westminister from 1862 to 1868, after which he made his home in Victoria, the capital having been changed from the Mainland to this city. He leaves to mourn his loss a widow, three daughters and two sons. He is extended the heartfelt sympathy of his many friends and acquaintances.

The funeral arrangements have not yet been announced.

THE TANANA COUNTRY.

District Greatly Over-Rated—Eight or Nine Times Too Many People There.

Recent reports from the Tanana country confirm the predictions heretofore made that that district as a gold-bearing would not be a heavy producer. American gold has been "booming" it, have been telling golden fairy tales of its magic wealth, and people are beginning to learn to their sorrow how that they have been lured to an altogether overrated region.

Richard Biennette and wife, who lately arrived back at Dawson are among those who speak of their disappointment. "When they last left that we had better not go to Tanana, because they had been told, and knew, I thought they were fools, and that I knew better. Now I know that I was, who was the fool," says Mr. Biennette. "We went out there on the Tanana, last boat to leave here, I think it was, and it took us thirty days to get there."

"Two days after we landed I wanted to get back. But we had made an extensive journey, and had to make a long haul, it determined to see the thing through, and get back as soon as we could."

"Tanana is a fine camp—not much, I think it would be a good enough camp, perhaps, 1,000 people, but there are 8,000 or 9,000 there. To support these people, banks creek, Cleary and a little bit of Pedro. In all 22 claims working; 14 on Cleary, 2 on Pedro and 4 on Fairbanks. On the rest of the claims there are some prospecting. That is all that I saw