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The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL. XLVIII., NO. 2 — VICTORIA, B.C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1905. — FORTY-EIGHTH YEAR.

Poles Set Up Government

Provisional Organization Started in Livonia and Rebels Capture Riga.

Choose New Local Officials and Pass Decrees Regulating Trade.

Reign of Terror Exists and the Inhabitants Are Fleeing From the Town.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 13.—(evening)—via Helsingfors and Berlin, Dec. 13.—Two messengers who arrived here from Riga today, having walked about 130 miles to catch a train at Plock not only confirm the report that a provisional government has been set up at Livonia, but they say that many of the troops have gone over to the insurrectionists.

Dwina fort commanding Riga harbor is in their possession and the governor and other Russian officials are prisoners. The messengers said that the provisional government exercised authority throughout Livonia and part of Courland. The new government has announced the separation of the Lithuanian people from the Russian empire. They have chosen new local officials and have decreed the closing of the spirit shops and breweries and the annulment of the contracts between the peasants and the landowners. There is a general uprising of the native peasants who are traveling in armed bands, attacking the estates and driving off or killing their owners.

Organized for Self-Protection

Some of the land owners have organized volunteer battalions to protect their property as the authorities are powerless to afford aid, but the majority are fleeing in terror. The peasants forbid the owners to sell grain or lumber, and formally declare that the forests and estates of those who have departed will be confiscated. The position of the peasants in those provinces has been the most deplorable of any in the entire Empire. Conditions almost approaching those of the Feudal system have been continued down to the present time. They practically have kept the peasants in a state of vassalage, pledging them at the mercy of the greedy barons from whom they rent land and purchase the right to cut wood, and fish in the waters of the gulf.

The Russian officials are being expelled from the provinces and many of them have been killed.

Reign of Terror at Riga

There is a reign of terror at Riga. Women and children are living in the upper stories of houses and foreign merchants are winding up their business or abandoning everything in order to escape.

It is doubtful whether the promise of local self-government contained in today's imperial ukase will have much effect, at least for the present but it furnishes ample proof that the government realizes that it is helpless to restore order without granting heavy concessions.

The partial concessions granted to the people of the Baltic provinces are bound to encourage the Poles, Georgians and other border peoples.

Little is known of Gen. Sologub, who, it is reported will be appointed Governor General of the Baltic province, but he is said to be a man of energy, with fairly liberal ideas.

Run on Savings Bank

The bourse again weakened on reports of commercial failures everywhere in the provinces, and also in sympathy with the extreme panicky condition of the Moscow exchange. Runs on the savings banks continue, the Nasha Shisnh claims to be in possession of information to the effect that at a conference of grand dukes and court officials held at Tsarskoe Selo it was decided that Count Witte had proved a failure, and that time had arrived for the adoption of firm measures which could be employed with less opposition under a man like Prince Sviatopolk Mirsky former minister of the Interior. The paper declares that a further conference will be held tomorrow, at which Count Witte will not be present.

The government advices from Poland say there is a slight improvement in the disposition of the peasants to resume the payment of taxes.

The "Invisible Government"

The league of leagues, now termed the "invisible government," has elaborated a project for a constituent assembly of 986 members elected from districts of 140,000 inhabitants, which, upon its convocation, shall assume complete sovereignty, executive, legislative and judicial.

The news drifting from the interior shows that violence is decreasing but that the ferment is unabated. Every class of society is organizing parties and elaborating political programmes. In some places the landlords threaten that unless the government suppresses the agrarian disorders they will refuse to pay taxes or interest to the nobility or banks for loans, etc., and will take the law into their own hands, organize guards to protect their property, and, if necessary, to make reprisals by burning the peasants' villages.

On the other hand a meeting of 6,000 workmen has been held at Moscow, at which it is stated soldiers were present who pledged themselves to fight to the last drop of blood to secure the downfall of imperial rule, an eight-hour work day and a division of the land to the peasants.

Near Ouglich agitators are urging the peasants to attack the estate of Count Sherometier, a noted reactionary, cut down the forests, burn the family mansion and annex the lands.

Martial Law Has Been Declared

at Poltava, Little Russia, where the railroad men have joined the post and telegraph strike. At Stara, Russia, province of Novgorod, the authorities only prevented a massacre of Jews and revolutionists by hastily tearing down the proclamations of the "loyalists" calling on the population to punish the Jews and revolutionists in the Emperor's name.

The telegraph strike hangs on. It is resumed in one place only to cease in another. The strikers are able to cut the lines as fast as the government can repair them.

A counter propaganda has begun among the troops by the distribution of literature calling on them to remain true to the Emperor, "from whom all good flows."

ARCHDUKE OTTO ILL.

Member of Austrian Royal Family Undergoes Operation.

Vienna, Dec. 14.—Archduke Otto has been seriously ill for the last few months and his condition is becoming aggravated. The operation of tracheotomy became necessary. This was successfully performed on Monday last and the archduke now breathes through a silver tube inserted in the windpipe. The operation was performed only when dangerous attacks of suffocation made it imperative. He is still in a serious condition.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Boston, Dec. 13.—A summary of the work of Protestant foreign missions, made public today by Rev. Dr. E. E. Strong, secretary of the American board, shows that there are 6,003 male and 5,154 female missionaries, 5,286 native laborers and 1,325,815 communicants at the 20,641 stations and out-stations.

This is an increase during the past year of 103,732 communicants. There are 901,112 persons under instruction. The total income of all societies in the United States, Canada, Great Britain and continental Europe is $15,151,368; of this, the United States alone contributes $7,060,701.

Secretary Strong states that the promise made last year by the Turkish government that it would give to American educational and religious institutions the same privileges that have been granted to those controlled by Europeans has not been fulfilled, and that the porte has declined also to fulfill the stipulation made.

Hotel Burned

Wabigoon, Dec. 13.—Dyment hotel, together with contents, burned this morning, loss $4,000. Insurance, $2,500.

Insurance Man Pleads Privilege

Asks Investigating Committee Not to Probe His Former Conduct.

Control of Provident Secured With Company's Funds Loaned to President.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—During the insurance investigation today Edward W. Scott, president of the Provident Savings Life Assurance Society, made an earnest appeal to Chairman W. W. Armstrong of the investigating committee with respect to his (Scott's) relation with the Equitable Life Assurance Society, of which he was formerly Australian agent. Chas. E. Hughes, counsel of the committee, had asked Mr. Scott whether the Equitable Life Assurance Society had a claim of $100,000 against him. Mr. Scott at first declared that there was no such claim, and then Mr. Hughes produced letters which passed between Mr. Scott and the president, Jas. W. Alexander, on that subject in 1897, in which President Alexander asked Mr. Scott to make a formal admission in writing that his accounts with the society, showing balances of $57,933 due the society, were correct. In one letter President Alexander wrote that Mr. Scott had accepted the accounts. Mr. Scott's letters to President Alexander proposed a conference but made no admissions as to the acceptance of the accounts.

Scott's Plea for Silence

When these letters had been read President Scott made an earnest plea to the committee to rule that this subject is foreign to the investigation. He declared that he had been pursued by enemies for several years; that in 1900 he caused the arrest and indictment of a man who had engaged with the Equitable Life Assurance Society to deliver to it records stolen from the Provident Life Assurance Society; that a traitorous book-keeper, who was in league with this man, was dismissed from the Provident Society's employ, and that it was in connection with these that his (Scott's) relations with the Equitable were reported to the committee and in a spirit of revenge. Though Mr. Hughes did not uncover just what the

Equitable Society's Claims

against Mr. Scott were based on, he brought out from him the statement that the Equitable Society had made such a claim upon him, and that Mr. Scott refused to settle it.

Another incident in the testimony of Mr. Scott was that his statement that when he bought control of the Provident Savings Life Assurance Society stock he used $25,000 which had been lent by that company to two of its agents in order to buy one hundred shares of its stock.

They did not buy the stock and Mr. Scott said he took over the loan and delivered to the society a promise to turn over to it one hundred shares of its stock until he got the stock.

It is now held by a trust company, to whom he still owes $50,000, which he borrowed to buy it.

Incendiary Fire

Neepawa, Ma., Dec. 13.—Foulton Bros general store and contents were totally destroyed by fire this morning, and the proprietors barely escaped with their lives. The loss will be very heavy, as there was little insurance. The fire was of incendiary origin.

Claims of Rival Co's

Water Works Case Is Still Being Continued in the Supreme Court.

Secretary Theo. Lubbe Was Again on the Stand Yesterday Afternoon.

Case Will Be Continued Today When Further Evidence Will Be Taken.

THE hearing of the case of the Esquimalt Water Works Company vs. the Victoria Power Company was resumed in the Supreme court yesterday morning before Mr. Justice Duff.

On opening the case Mr. Luxton, for the power company, presented their writ, which was for the right to restrain the defendants from trespassing on their property and also a declaration as to the rights of the water works company. Two notices had been posted by agents for the defendants—one above and the other below the present power house. He stated that the Victoria Power Company was identical with the B. C. Electric Company, or, otherwise, the agents of the B. C. Electric Company.

Mr. McPhillips stated that the two companies were different and thought that the opposing counsel should not be allowed to make the statement.

His lordship thought that they were entitled to refer to them as the agents of the company.

Mr. Luxton claimed that the plaintiffs were entitled to all the waters of Goldstream, as well as the lands, and in going on these lands the defendants committed a trespass. In committing this trespass he claimed that their action was all void. One point was that there was no water to record and another that they cannot record.

Defendant's Rights

He claimed that if the defendants obtained a record they would be entitled to erect power houses, reservoirs, and dams, which would be detrimental to the interests of the plaintiffs. The company had got a certificate to obtain water at Shawnigan lake. There had been no amendment to the certificate, and it was, therefore, urged that the power company had no right at Goldstream even if a record was open.

Mr. Peters propose that the evidence of Mr. Lubbe as given in the previous case should be taken in this one, the question of cross-examination being left open to Mr. McPhillips.

Mr. McPhillips did not feel like accepting this. He stated that, not understanding the case in that way at the commencement, he had not taken as full notes on the evidence of Mr. Lubbe as he would have done.

His lordship said that he did not regard a few days' additional time taken on an important case like this as wasted. He could see the force of the remarks of Mr. McPhillips. He suggested that it might be possible to have the stenographer's notes extended to allow of Mr. McPhillips going through them. Parts which were not necessary might then be eliminated, and Mr. McPhillips could cross-examine on it.

It was called to the attention of his lordship that Stenographer Gilbert was out of the city and it might be impossible to have the notes extended.

His lordship said that it was most unfortunate that a stenographer taking a case like this had not made provision for the notes being extended.

It was finally decided to take fifteen minutes' adjournment in order to allow counsel to arrive at a conclusion on the question.

On resuming after the adjournment, it was learned that the notes were not extended and Mr. Peters stated that he would take until Tuesday to have them ready, and in face of that he thought it would be better if they went ahead with the case.

Mr. Lubbe was then called as the first witness and in examination by Mr. Peters he stated that he was secretary of the Esquimalt Water Works Company and had held that position since 1885. All the works at Goldstream and Thetis lake have been constructed under his supervision, and he constucted them under the statutes of 1892. The works at Goldstream were constructed after the improvements at Thetis Lake had proved insufficient. Waugh Creek and Niagara Creek were the most important tributaries of Goldstream. He had visited Goldstream during the summer and had measured the water during the dry season and had found about an inch of water. Work on the construction of No. 1 reservoir was commenced on April, 1892 and completed in July, 1893. It had a mean height of 1505 feet above sea level. The wall to the reservoir was 35 feet high and they had cleared the reservoir of all the debris. They had no contract with the National Electric Company until May 10, 1892. And the contract was never entered into on account of the failure of the electric company.

Work Undertaken in 1897

The next work that was undertaken was in 1897, when they commenced work on the improvement of Cabin Pond. This was after they had entered into the contract with the B. C. Electric Company. They also laid a pipe line from Cabin Pond to a point near the power house. They next constructed reservoir No. 2, which had a capacity of about 9,000,000 gallons. It had an elevation of 1600 feet above sea level. No. 3 reservoir was the next work undertaken and it was completed in November, 1902. It has an elevation of 1,770 feet above sea level. No other work of any importance was undertaken by the company, but the power house was erected by the B. C. Electric company in 1898 on a piece of land leased from the water works company. They control a water shed of 12,160 acres with a run off of 37,000,000 gallons. They secure 15,000,000 gallons of this which is about 40 per cent of the total. They could secure about 60 per cent but it would cost a great deal more.

If the city called on them to supply water they would have to erect another reservoir with an elevation of 444 feet and a capacity of 25,000,000 gallons. This would give an effective head of 442 feet, which is ample for any demand that might be made by the city. If they had to supply the city, they would have to lay a 42-inch pipe instead of a 30-inch, with which have to supply Victoria West. At the present time 14,247,770 gallons of water went past the power house every day. At the present time they have 3,026,000,000 gallons of water stored in their reservoirs. The power company are bound to keep the water which they use free from all impurities. He had seen the notices which had been posted by the company, but did not remove them and he had never given permission to buy one to post them. One of the notices was posted in an old water tank about 50 yards from the power house and the other was up the stream.

WINNIPEG CHURCH BURNED.

Berlin, Dec. 13.—Lawrence Smith, of Galt, was this morning sentenced to ten years in Kingston penitentiary on charges of hold-up and theft. Smith was let off on suspended sentence in October, 1904 for similar offence. In passing sentence, Judge Chisholm said he was giving Smith the severest sentence he had ever inflicted since he had been on the bench.

TEN YEARS FOR HOLDUP.

Winnipeg, Dec. 13.—The handsome new addition to Central Congregational church, Hargrave street, was badly damaged by fire this morning, flames breaking out after 10 o'clock. The contractors were still in possession and the church was to be reopened early in January. The loss will be $30,000.

The machine shops of Stuart Machinery company were partially destroyed by fire tonight. The loss will amount to $10,000 fully insured. Fifty hands are thrown out of employment.

The residence of Chas. Ellis, C. E., was also burned tonight, loss $2,000. Insurance, $600.

Dominion News Notes

Government Has Invited Prince Arthur to Pay Dominion a Visit.

Canada Will Enjoy Most Favored Nation Treatment in Japan.

Annual Meeting of The Canadian Bank of Commerce Yesterday.

OTTAWA, Dec. 13.—The government has extended an official invitation to Prince Arthur of Connaught to visit Canada. The Prince is now in Janan. The Canadian visit will be arranged on the return trip to England. Prince Arthur will return via Victoria.

Rev. Dr. Potts, Rev. J. G. Shearer and R. A. MacPherson, representing the Lord's Day Alliance, waited on Premier Laurier and Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick today and urged the enactment of a federal prohibition bill on the lines of the draft measure submitted last year. Mr. Fitzpatrick expressed the opinion that it was a matter with which the provinces had to deal and Sir Wilfrid said the question would have to be considered by a full meeting of the cabinet before an answer could be given.

It is recalled that the present government was responsible for Canada's holding aloof from the Anglo-Japanese treaty. Three years were allowed to the Dominion government to elect whether this country would become a party to the treaty and the Laurier ministry decided to stay out in the cold. The United States have a treaty with Japan similar to that of Great Britain, under which many products of the States are being admitted into Japan at rates varying from 10 to 25 per cent, less than on the goods from Canada. It has at last

Dawned Upon the Dominion

government that a mistake was made in not accepting the provisions of the treaty, as it has militated against the development of Canadian trade with Japan. Under the most favored clauses Canada may now be expected to do a large export business in cottons, flour, fish, etc., with the progressive country of the "Far East." One clause in the new treaty provides that subjects of either country shall be at liberty to freely come and go in the country of the other. This means that a stop will be put to the action of the British Columbia legislature in annually passing legislation restrictive of Japanese immigration. Doubtless the legislature will continue this policy, but with different results, as it will be the duty of the lieutenant-governor simply to refuse to assent to such measures, and they will therefore never reach Ottawa.

The announcement of the result of the Saskatchewan elections gave great satisfaction in Conservative circles here. Mr. Haultain put up a plucky fight against tremendous odds and is deservedly being congratulated for his victory.

Robbery in Toronto

Toronto, Dec. 13.—A system of petty thieving in the wholesale drygoods warehouse of John A. MacDonald and company, which was discovered yesterday, has resulted in the arrest of Chas. E. Ede, London, Ont, Norman Boyd, Archibald Galbraith, Donald McLeod, Harry Holmes and Lawrence Herger, of Toronto. Galbraith was suspected and was called into the private office of the firm, where he confessed and named the other junior clerks as being guilty of stealing. After arrest their trunks were searched at their rooms, and stolen articles found in them all with the exception of trunk of Boyd. All the young fellows are very respectably connected in Toronto.

The annual statement of the Canadian Bank of Commerce for the year ending November 30th shows a net profit for the year of $1,376,167.63, premium on stock amounting to $564,996. One million dollars was transferred to the rest fund bringing the rest up to $4,500,000.

An Alberta Election

Edmonton, Dec. 13.—Message received from L. Dubuc at Athabasca Landing state that he has been elected to represent Peace river in the Alberta legislature. His election was conceded but this is the first definite information received and no details of the vote are obtainable.

Plotting a Dictatorship

Reactionary Court Clique Headed by Ignatieff Defeated by Czar.

His Majesty Stands by Witte Who Is Now Blamed for Disorders.

Germany Asks Protection for Her Citizens in Polish Provinces.

ST. PETERSBURG, Midnight, Dec. 14.—According to reports from Tsarskoe-Selo, the reactionary cabal headed by Gen. Count Alexis Ignatieff and M. Steschinsky, formed to effect the downfall of Count Witte and to create a dictatorship, has failed and His Majesty is standing firmly by the premier.

M. Menshikoff, the writer, who is in close touch with the court, is out with a strong article demanding the inauguration of an aggressive fight against the revolution before it is too late.

M. Menshikoff says: "The revolutionaries, like the French convention, openly send out emissaries and do not conceal their intentions. They act in the full light of day, while the government works in secret. The government, it is true, has cannon, but perhaps only for the present, while they are not necessary.

"Where they are needed none can guarantee they will not be in the possession of the revolutionaries. The present anarchy and suspense are due to the inaction of the government. Witte, like Kuropatkin, not only permits the enemy to concentrate his forces, but to make his depositions and to choose the moment for giving battle. Such tactics will no more win in Russia than they did in Manchuria."

Troops for Baltic Provinces

The government is sending several columns of troops to the Baltic provinces of Esthonia and Courland, and to Riga. In response to appeals from the German embassy demanding the protection of German subjects the government has replied that ample troops are now on the way to insure the protection of all foreigners.

August Von Hennings, a prominent member of the Baltic nobility, and assistant chief of this district, was murdered near Riga by a revolutionary band. Two dragoons who were detailed to guard the residence were also killed.

A servant who had walked sixty miles brought the details of the horrible event here. According to the servant, the revolutionaries demanded that Von Hennings give up his sword. On being told that as an officer he could not surrender with honor

The Revolutionaries Shot Him

Subsequently his head was hacked off and his body cut to pieces and fed to dogs.

M. Bompard, the French ambassador, who returned suddenly a fortnight ago on account of the crisis, has left for Paris and it is understood that he is the bearer of important despatches.

A message received from Moscow by telephone says that according to reports received there Antonius, bishop of Volhynia, in southwest Russia, is instructing the priests to calm the agitation in that portion of the country. It is stated that some of the priests are inciting the population against the Jews, Poles and students, as enemies of the country.

The council of workmen has issued the following address: "We extend our most sincere sympathy to our brothers, the soldiers and sailors at Sebastopol and elsewhere, whose blood has been spilled with ours in the common cause. We call upon the proletariat to organize with redoubled energy for an armed revolt, which will liberate the people."

Predatory Peasantry

The explanation offered of the mania which has seized the peasants in many provinces of burning down forests, both public and private, is that the mujiks have been made to believe that the Emperor has declared a division of the arable land and that he desires to bring the forest lands into that category.

The last class to organize is the chimney sweeps. They have decided that it will be impossible for them to work without the promulgation of a constitution.

The holy synod has instructed the clergy hereafter to solemnize marriages of orthodox Christians with old believers. A constant stream of reports is coming in to the effect that the military, principally the sappers and engineer battalions and the horse artillery, are formulating demands for better food and clothing and more humane treatment.

Government's Balance Sheet

The balance sheet of the government for the first eight months of the current year makes a fairly favorable showing. The expenditures totalled altogether $991,500,000. The receipts were $1,006,000,000, including $358,000,000 from the proceeds of loans, etc. The receipts were $39,500,000 in excess of those for 1904, and the ordinary expenditures $8,500,000 less. The bourse continues to hesitate. Imperial fours closed today at 78½.

SAFE BLOWN OPEN.

South Bend Depot, Wash., Dec. 14.—The office of the Simpson Lumber Company was entered early today, the safe blown open, and about $700 in coin, besides checks and valuable papers, taken. The work was that of professionals, but there is no clue.

ACCIDENTS AT NANAIMO.

Nanaimo, Dec. 14.—(Special.)—Quite a chapter of accidents was reported from the mines today. James Bingham, a miner at Brechin, was caught in the mining machine and his foot badly lacerated. This evening James Bell, roperider, got mixed up with an endless rope, which resulted in a broken leg in two places above the thigh. At No. 1 a Chinaman was badly squeezed between two coal cars.

Capt. Jogerson, with a Fraser river cannery steamer, caught fifty tons of herring in Departure bay last night.

ADDITIONAL HONORS.

An American Promoted to Office in Legion of Honor.

Paris, Dec. 14.—Arthur E. Valois, former counsel to the United States consulate-general, who was made a chevalier of the Legion of Honor in 1901, was today promoted to be an officer of the Legion.

Arthur E. Valois is a New York lawyer and was one of the United States commissioners to the Paris exposition. He was born in Valois, Canada, about 55 years ago and became an American citizen about 24 years ago. Although a resident of New York, Mr. Valois spends the greater part of his time in Paris.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

U. S. Senate Spends Many Hours Discussing Question of Routes.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The senate spent four hours today in discussing the Panama canal emergency appropriation bill, and when it adjourned the bill was still under consideration. There were speeches by Messrs. Teller, Scott and Morgan and were followed by a general debate, in which all phases of the controversy were exploited, including salaries, control of the Panama railway, and the necessity for general legislation on the canal.

Messrs. Teller, Scott and Morgan expressed dissatisfaction with the conditions in Panama, but all indicated a determination to support measures necessary to secure the construction of the canal as at present undertaken. Mr. Teller

Advocated a Sea-Level Canal

Mr. Scott spoke in support of the San Blas route as preferable to the others, and Mr. Morgan expressed the opinion that before the Papama canal is completed another canal will be necessary to do the business required.

Mr. Morgan expressed the opinion that in view of the divided opinion of the engineers on the Panama route it would be wise to order an immediate survey of the San Blas route.

Mr. Morgan said that he had been misquoted as having said that there had been graft in connection with the management of the canal and quoted what he said: "If," he added, "any graft has occurred it will be found in connection with the management of the Panama railroad."

Urge a Survey Of the Narrows

Board of Trade to Memorialize Government Respecting Bute Inlet Route.

Report of the Committee Inquiring Into Local Pilotage Affairs.

AT THE regular monthly meeting of the board of trade last evening a resolution was adopted requesting the boards of trade of Vancouver Island to assist the local board in their endeavor to secure a grant from the Dominion government to conduct a survey of Seymour Narrows.

The chair was occupied by the president, T. W. Paterson, M. P. P., and among those present were: H. B. Thompson, C. H. Lugrin, S. J. Pitts, A. McKeown, R. B. McMicking, J. A. Mara, W. T. Hardaker, J. A. Pauline, W. Bone, J. A. Sayward, H. B. Robertson, Ald. Goodacre, Ald. Hanna, J. Stemler and A. Mackenzie.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

The special committee which was appointed to interview Geo. Riley, M. P., with regard to a new dredge to replace the Mudlark reported that they had interviewed Mr. Riley and had given a few notes on the question which he could present to the department on his arrival at Ottawa. It had been understood that an appropriation of $60,000 had been made to construct another dredge, but a communication had been received from Hon. Mr. Hyman of the department of public works which led to the belief that no appropriation had been made. He thought that the secretary should telegraph the department with a view to obtaining a definite answer. Capt. Cox had stated that the Mudlark is practically worn out, and if a new dredge were not built no dredging would be done next year.

Question of Dredgers

C. H. Lugrin was of the opinion that there was a misunderstanding about the matter. It had been generally understood that an appropriation had been made but he was not sure about it. Mr. Riley had informed him that he was going direct to Ottawa and would have the matter cleared up one way or the other. Mr. Riley was in favor of having the dredge constructed in British Columbia and would try to have plans and specifications prepared and sent out for contractors to figure on.

S. J. Pitts moved that the secretary be instructed to write to the department with a view to having the matter settled.

The motion was seconded by Ald. Hanna.

The chairman also understood that the appropriation had been made.

A. McKeown thought it would be better to telegraph for information and write on receipt of the answer. He moved an amendment to that effect.

J. A. Pauline seconded the amendment.

The amendment was carried.

A communication was received from B. W. Greer, general freight agent of the C. P. R., enclosing a copy of the reply filed by the company with the board of railway commissioners to the complaint of the coast boards of trade respecting rates to the interior.

The communication was received and referred to the railway committee.

The special committee on pilotage presented their report, which was, on motion of J. A. Mara, seconded by A. McKeown, received and approved and the committee given further time to consider the subject.

C. H. Lugrin then moved the following resolution:

Dominion News Notes

Sir Wilfrid Returns to Quebec to Pour Water on Troubled Politics.

Montreal Banking Firm Fails for $100,000 With Assets Nominal.

Returns From Saskatchewan Give Premier Scott a Safe Margin.

OTTAWA, Dec. 14.—The Ottawa public library will be formally opened next April. The building which has cost one hundred thousand dollars and was donated by Andrew Carnegie, is rapidly approaching completion. Mr. Carnegie is coming to Ottawa in April on a visit to his excellency, the governor general, and it is proposed to invite him to attend the opening of the Ottawa library.

The minister of public works has secured the opinion of experts on the ventilation of the Common's chamber as a result of which great improvements will be made.

Premier Laurier went to Quebec today to appear as a witness in the Parent-Choquette libel case.

Sir Wilfrid's Sunny Ways

Quebec, Dec. 14.—A rumor is in circulation here that the Parent-Choquette case has been amicably arranged as a result of the visit to Quebec of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The attorneys in the case, however, have heard nothing of a settlement. The case, they say, is inscribed for hearing tomorrow.

A Bad Business Break

Montreal, Dec. 14.—With liabilities of nearly $100,000 and assets of office furniture and a bank deposit of a little over $4,000, the firm of Meredith, McLaren & Co., bankers and brokers, has suspended business. The firm dealt in New York margins and were not members of the Montreal stock exchange.

American Hogs Not Wanted

Guelph, Dec. 14.—Representative swine breeders met Hon. S. Fisher here yesterday and made a reply to the request of the Canadian packers for the removal of the embargo on United States hogs. They represented that it was most desirable in the interest of the Canadian farmer that the United States pig be excluded from importation for packing purposes as they brought danger of disease to the Canadian herds and impaired the reputation of Canadian bacon abroad.

Winnipeg Wirings

Winnipeg, Dec. 14.—Foulston's store and contents in Birnie village north of Neepawa was destroyed by fire today. The store was insured for $1,600 and the stock for $3,500, leaving a loss of $2,000. Clerk Scott was badly burned in escaping.

The charge of theft against J. D. Evans, traveler for D. Fraser and Co., has been dismissed.

Diment hotel, twenty miles east of Wabigdon, Ont., was destroyed by fire.

Bank clearings for week ending today were $10,176,084; 1904, $7,080,150; 1903, $6,024,397.

Distinguished Service Medal

Lethbridge, Alta, Dec. 14.—Lieut-Governor Bulyea today decorated Staff Sergeant Fraser, N. W. M. P., with the distinguished service medal. Fraser joined the force in 1874.

American's Mysterious Death

Medicine Hat, Sask, Dec. 14.—A rather startling development occurred at the inquest on the body of W. Behnke, an American landseeker, who died in the hospital here on November 18, under suspicious circumstances. He was put on the train at Pincher Creek in an insensible condition. Analytic examination determined that he had been poisoned with chloral hydrate, all circumstances seem to add to mystery.

The Tariff Commission

Prince Albert, Sask., Dec. 14.—The tariff commission opened its session here today. The board of trade represented by Judge McGuire and President Hall asked for a reduction of 50 per cent in the duty on agricultural implements and the president of the agricultural society strongly endorsed the claims of the Manitoba grain growers. He also pointed out that the customs regulations were being transgressed by incoming settlers, who bring extra machinery and dispose of it to Canadians. The commission adjourned to meet in Regina Saturday.

Close of Navigation

Fort William, Ont., Dec. 14.—Navigation on the great lakes will close after arrival of steamer Moore of the Booth line, now en route here from Duluth.

Saskatchewan Elections

Regina, Sask., Dec. 14.—At late hour tonight, Liberals in Saskatchewan claim sixteen seats. Returns from belated polls being favorable to Premier Scott's candidates in several constituencies. Very few final returns have been received, numerous polls still being unheard from in a majority of ridings.

RAILROAD TROLLEY SERVICE.

New York, Dec. 14.—In order to facilitate the local service between the cities and towns along its main line the Erie Railroad Company has decided to establish a trolley service as a subsidiary to its main track.

YESTERDAY'S NOTABLE DEATHS.

New York, Dec. 14.—Justice John Courtney, one of the judges of the court of special sessions for the boroughs of Brooklyn, Queen's, and Richmond, died today at his home in Brooklyn.

London, Dec. 14.—The death is announced from Sicily of William Sharp, the author. Concurrently with the announcement, Sharp's friend, Richard Whiteing, reveals the interesting fact that Sharp was the author of the works published under the pseudonym of "Miss Fiona Macleod."