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NO. 62.

BIG INCREASE IN TORONTO'S INSURANCE RATE.

Underwriters Decide on a 75 Per Cent. Advance in Congested Business District and 40 Per Cent. in Other Parts of the City—Insurance Loss Will Be Nearly \$10,000,000—10,000 People Out of Work.

Onto, April 21—(Special)—A committee of the insurance underwriters will tomorrow consider the question of increasing the rates on mercantile risks throughout Canada. This afternoon committee decided to increase the rate in Toronto 75 per cent for the congested districts and 40 per cent for the other districts of the city. The insurance men say it will take nearly \$10,000,000 to settle the claims.

whole business community, will not be followed by any financial panic; in fact few failures are looked for. It is pointed out that the fire losses were for the most part sustained by the wealthiest men in the city, practically all of whom were able to stand fairly heavy losses without succumbing to the blow, and who kept their property well insured. Fortunately, spring orders were pretty well delivered and the stocks in the warehouses were below the average.

WAL LADEN SCHOONER SANK IN TWO MINUTES.

Barge Struck the Levi Hart in Pollock Rip and Down She Went—Crew Rescued.

Wineyard Haven, April 21—The schooner Levi Hart, bound from Port Johnson to Pollock Rip, with a cargo of coal, was sunk in Pollock Rip late last night through a collision with a barge, in the company of her crew. Of her crew seven men, three clambered on board the barge at the time of the collision, the other four, including Captain Middleton, took to the rigging, from which they were rescued in a short time. The Levi Hart passed north yesterday noon, and had nearly reached High Light when a heavy northwest gale came on, and her captain, declining to back her to the lee of Handkerchief Shoal, she went back through the shoal about midnight, she met the Nottingham coming north with three coal barges. The schooner, which was going at a lively rate, cleared the tug and first barge, but the second barge, No. 10, cutting her down to the water's edge so that she sank within two minutes.

FORMER HILLSBORO MAN DEAD AT ARLINGTON, MASS.

Edgett Succumbed to Heart Disease—He Was a Wealthy Retired Contractor.

Arlington, Mass., April 21—(Special)—Edgett, a wealthy and prominent contractor, died here today of heart disease. He was born in Hillsboro, N. B., August 28, 1833, of a well known family which has emigrated to the provinces from Massachusetts prior to the revolution. He established himself in business at Boston in early manhood and was prominent for many years in building circles.

SECOND MARITIME EXPRESS WILL LIKELY BE RUN.

Minister of Railways Tells Parliament He Hopes to Inaugurate It This Summer.

Ottawa, April 21—(Special)—Hon. Mr. Mackenzie stated in the house today that he hoped that a second Maritime Express would be installed over the I. C. R. between Montreal and maritime provinces this summer, leaving Montreal daily in the morning.

WATER WARK IN HARNESS AGAIN.

Provincial Legislature Got Great Reception on Rising to Speak.

Ottawa, April 21—(Special)—Hon. David Milne presented in the senate today a bill to incorporate the Du Lorne Waterway Company.

BRITISH COMMENT ON TORONTO FIRE.

General Opinion is That Small Insurance Companies Will Suffer—Dynamiting Buildings Condemned.

Montreal, April 21—(Special)—A special London cable says: "Among insurance men the opinion is expressed that the Toronto fire may shake the financial status of one or two smaller offices that depend chiefly upon the surplus business of larger companies. 'Surprise is expressed that, after the Baltimore experience, the Toronto firemen should have used dynamite to blow up the buildings. This expedient has been found useless when there is a high wind, for unless the area cleared is considerable, the flames are easily carried over it, as they are frequently over wide streets. Besides, at Baltimore the blowing up of property only added to the destructiveness of the outbreak.'"

SYDNEY'S TAX RATE TWO PER CENT. THIS YEAR.

Town Has Spent \$358,000 on a Water System—Scott Act Fines Were More Than \$13,000 Last Year—Other Statistics.

Sydney, N. S., April 21—(Special)—The estimates for the year were submitted at tonight's meeting of the city council. The rate of taxation was fixed at two per cent. The blue book for last year, issued today, shows that for 1903 the expenditures amounted to \$447,594.17 and the receipts \$148,610.77.

OTTAWA TO GET CHEAP LIGHTING.

Under Municipal System Arc Street Lamps Will Only Cost \$38 Per Year.

Ottawa, April 21—(Special)—Ottawa under the municipal lighting system will be able to have arc street lamps at \$38 per year, while the cheapest figure by contract set forth in the recent tenders is \$201 per lamp, offered by the Ottawa Electric Company on a ten years' agreement.

Sully's Cotton About All Sold.

New York, April 21—The receivers of the firm of Daniel J. Sully & Co. today announced that they have sold all but about 100 bales of the spot cotton held in warehouses for the bankrupt firm.

Two thousand bales were sold yesterday and 1,200 bales today. About \$200,000 have been realized by the sale.

McADAM GETS A VERY SEVERE SCORCHING.

Sixteen Buildings, Including Catholic Church, Razed to the Ground.

Bustling C. P. R. Town Has the Worst Fire in Its History—Started in Old Junction House and Swept Furiously—C. P. R. Shops Saved by Gallant Fight—Loss Estimated at \$25,000.

Sixteen buildings, eleven of them dwellings and stores, and the other including the Roman Catholic church, of which Rev. M. F. Murphy, of this city, is pastor, were destroyed by fire at McAdam Junction, on the C. P. R., Thursday afternoon. The C. P. R. machine shops were saved. The total loss is roughly placed at about \$25,000, and the insurance is not known.

The following is a list of the buildings burned:—

- Post office, owned by Jas. W. Green.
Both Junction House, owned by W. H. Meredith.
Old station building, owned by C. P. R.
Dwelling, owned by Samuel Wattle.
Dwelling and shop, owned by Mrs. John Boyd.
Two dwellings, owned by W. H. Meredith.
Dwelling and store, owned by C. W. Moffatt & Co.
Dwelling of three tenements, owned by Jas. Gardiner.
Dwelling, owned by Clifford Brownell.
Hall, owned by Independent Order of Foresters.
St. John's Roman Catholic church.
Dwelling, owned by John Timoney.
Two dwellings, owned by Mrs. John Boyd.

A gentleman who arrived in the city Thursday and who witnessed the fire, told a reporter that the conflagration was a very fierce one while it lasted.

Fanned by almost a gale of wind, the flames were not long enveloping the old Junction house building, and despite this and the burning cinders nearly all the men in the village assembled in fighting the fire. The furniture from a number of burning houses was taken and left piled up in adjoining fields, only to be ignited by cinders and destroyed.

Sixteen buildings in all, including the Catholic church, Foresters' hall, large general store formerly kept by George Baskin; the post office and barber shop were burned.

Shanty on St. Stephen Branch Burned. The C. P. R. tracks near the old Junction house were quite badly damaged, the rails being twisted in some places.

Of the buildings burned there was nothing left but piles of ruins. When it was learned in St. John that the fire was becoming very alarming, J. G. Sheehan, acting superintendent, ordered out all of the C. P. R. employees at the junction to fight the flames, and it was largely through their efforts that greater damage was done.

The C. P. R. loss is not heavy, and is projected by insurance.

RUSSIANS FLEE PANIC-STRICKEN ACROSS THE YALU IN OVERCROWDED BOATS, AND HUNDREDS DROWN.

Tokio Despatch Says Port Arthur is Effectually Blocked and the Fortress is Doomed—Kurapatkin Sends Account of Capture and Execution of Two Japanese Spies.

London, April 21—A correspondent of the Times, calling from Newchwang, says that a messenger has arrived there from the Yalu river with the information that the Russians are fleeing north across the river in overcrowded boats, and are losing hundreds by drowning.

Port Arthur Doomed Say Japs. London, April 21—The Tokio correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says that Port Arthur undoubtedly is effectually blocked and that events are culminating around the doomed fortress.

Kurapatkin's Account of Executing Jap Spies. St. Petersburg, April 21—The following telegram has been received by the emperor from General Kurapatkin:—

that two Japanese officers, named Stoeve Yuloka and Gika Oki, were arrested near the station of Tur Chi Klia. In their possession were found three cases of lockford fuses, a French wrench, dynamite cartridges, tools for railway wrecking, cyclines containing one and a half pounds of pyroxylin, good maps of Mongolia, Manchuria and Northern Korea, and a number of notes.

A court-martial held at Harbin April 20, found them guilty, while belonging to the Japanese army operating against Russia, and in order to gain success for their army, of destroying or damaging telegraph and railway communications by means of pyroxylin and other accessories provided for that purpose, and of making their way secretly into Manchuria, where they were arrested by Russian patrols thirty versts southwest of the station of Tur Chi Klia.

The officers were condemned to be executed by hanging. "I confirmed the sentence, but in view of the officers' rank, consented that they be shot instead of hanged, with the same loss of civil rights.

"I refused their prayer to spare their lives, and they were executed at 6 o'clock on the evening of April 21."

Japanese Spies Thrown in Manchuria. Mukden, April 21—The operations of the Russians in Manchuria are greatly hampered by the immense number of spies. Major-General Kondratsvitch, command-

BLAIR DOCUMENT CAUSES WRANGLE IN PARLIAMENT.

Haggart's Suggestion That Ex-Minister of Railways May Have Given Out Memorandum Creates Sensation Among Liberals—House in Committee on G. T. P. Modifications.

Ottawa, April 21—(Special)—The house today went into committee upon the Grand Trunk Pacific resolution, when Col. Sam Hughes took the floor and suggested with great solemnity that the premier withdraw the resolution, a request which was received with laughter from the government side.

Colonel Hughes declared himself in favor of a transcontinental railway owned and operated by the people, if need be, but in any event controlled by them. The premier had been backed with regard to the provisions respecting rolling stock, and in relation to the operation of the Winnipeg division the government had no-thing in the agreement that would be in the interests of the people of Canada.

When the freight reaches Quebec, Col. Hughes insisted that it would be 150 miles nearer to Portland than to St. John, he cared not what route it took. Under the amended contract the Grand Trunk Pacific had the government at its mercy and would operate only the section from Winnipeg to the eastward upon their own terms, pending the completion to Montreal.

He contended that only by government operation could the freight be retained for Canadian ports. Borden Guardian of His Own Honor. R. L. Borden then offered a few words in reply to the premier's speech of last night.

He commended the "prime minister as having made a fair progress in the use of quotations. He modestly disclaimed the authorship attributed to him of the verses quoted in his previous speech beginning "Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow," and gave the author of Macbeth the credit with an alteration of seven words.

Borden had introduced a new doctrine, that of justifying his own conduct by saying the government had done something worse. As to the letters cited by Mr. Borden, he answered that they were brought down in response to orders of the house for returns of correspondence, a right to secure which every member enjoyed.

Dr. Spronle—is it not a fact that the motions for correspondence apply to papers which are not confidential? Mr. Haggart interjected to say the letters in question were not returns, but were letters which the postmaster-general had published "off his own bat."

They were not stolen, anyway, remarked a Liberal member. That Blair Memorandum Again. Mr. Wilfrid said he was not familiar with the letters. He was told they were returns, but would look into the matter. It was something necessary to bring down letters which were marked "private" in order to complete the record.

As to Mr. Blair's memorandum, Mr. Blair resigned in June, 1903. It was not a document which had anything to do with the resignation. When Mr. Blair resigned he made a list of the papers he wanted brought down, in order that the consent of the governor-general might be secured.

Mr. Ingram demanded the same code of honor toward Conservatives as towards Liberals, and said the government had never yet published the private letters of one of its own supporters. Sir Wilfrid Laurier quoted from Todd, the standard authority on parliamentary procedure, that the deliberations of the cabinet were strictly private, the ministers were bound by oath to secrecy, and cabinet communication could only be revealed with the permission of the crown.

INTERCOLONIAL SHOWS BIG DEFICIT FOR THE PAST EIGHT MONTHS.

For Period Ended Feb. 29 the Road's Earnings Were More Than \$650,000 Less Than Operating Expenses.

Ottawa, April 21—(Special)—In reply to Mr. Barker in the house today Mr. Emmerson said that the gross earnings of the I. C. R. for the eight months ending Feb. 29 were \$1,170,145, and the operating expenses \$1,840,817.

The operating expenses were divided as follows: Locomotive power, \$1,477,884; car expenses, \$1,483,064; maintenance and works, \$1,169,034; station expenses, \$535,944; general charges, \$330,766; car mileage, \$75,200; rental of leased lines, \$43,333. The receipts were from the following sources: Passengers, \$1,394,322; freight, \$2,298,588; mails and sundries, \$168,036.

To Mr. Fowler, Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that the chief justiceship of Nova Scotia was vacant and that the government would fill it at an early date as possible but that it had to arrange for the filling of other offices, such as judge of the exchequer court, which the late incumbent of the office of chief justice held.

MASSACHUSETTS DEMOCRATS SELECT OLNEY AS CANDIDATE.

Hearst Defeated as Presidential Nominee by 600 to 200.

Boston, April 21—By an overwhelming vote the Massachusetts Democratic convention at Tremont Temple today elected Olney as candidate for president.

Four delegates at large pledged to the support of Olney were elected, and the supporters of William R. Hearst, of New York, as the presidential nominee were defeated by a vote of 600 to 200. A resolution offered by Representative John A. Coulthurst, of Boston, endorsing the candidacy of Mr. Hearst, was voted down by a large majority.

SCHEER, BEULAH BENTON ASHORE AND FLOATED.

Schooner J. W. Raymond Badly Strained and Cargo is Being Discharged.

Digby, N. S., April 21—(Special)—Schooner Beulah Benton, before reported ashore, has been floated and is docked at the wharf in Truro. Schooner J. W. Raymond is badly strained. Her cargo is being discharged.

Inspector Cusack Charged With Violating Temperance Act—Other News of Sussex. Sussex, April 21—(Special)—Information has been laid against Scott Act Inspector Cusack for violation of the Canada Temperance Act. His trial will take place Saturday before Magistrate Mac.

Win. Sheek and Andrew Carr, of Waterford, have both had information lodged against them for selling liquor. The examination of Mariel Cole took place before Squire Magistrate R. Morrison this morning. He was found guilty of breaking the window and stealing a revolver on the premises of the Sussex Merc. Company, Ltd., and was committed for trial and sent to Hampton jail.

FREDERICTON HAD \$1500 FIRE LAST NIGHT.

John Palmer & Co., Ltd., Queen Street Tannery Damaged—Loss Insured.

Fredericton, N. B., April 21—(Special)—John Palmer & Co., Ltd., Queen street, tannery was damaged by fire tonight \$1,500 which is covered by insurance.

The fire was discovered by Night Watchman James Roberts about 11:30 o'clock in the dry room and it had attained considerable headway. After a tedious battle the firemen subdued the flames. The principal damage is to the stock, mostly by water.

BRITISH WARSHIP MAY BOMBARD NICARAGUAN PORT.

The Retribution Will Sail Saturday for Bluefields to Demand Satisfaction for Seizing Fishing Schooners.

Kingston, Ja., April 21—The British cruiser Retribution, which, under instructions from the imperial government, sailed from Kingston April 11 for a Nicaraguan port in connection with the seizure of six Cayman tattle schooners and the arrest of their crews by Nicaraguan officials returned to Port Royal from the Nicaraguan coast today after ascertaining that the vessels and crew had been sent to Bluefields.

The captain of the Retribution accused the Nicaraguan Commandant, under whose orders the schooners were seized, of piracy. There is consternation among the Nicaraguan officials over the affair. It was necessary for the Retribution to return to Port Royal to coal but the cruiser will sail for Bluefields Saturday to demand the release of the prisoners and the boats and also immediate compensation for their illegal seizure and detention.

It is rumored that she will be found necessary, the Retribution will bombard the port of Bluefields. SENATOR DEVER'S CONDITION IMPROVED. Ottawa, April 21—(Special)—The condition of Senator Dever, who is confined to his room at the Windsor Hotel, was reported as considerably improved today. His daughters, Mrs. Leslie, of Kingston, and Mrs. Barbeau, of Montreal, have arrived in the city and are in attendance on their father.