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The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL L., NO. 122 — VICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1908 — FIFTIETH YEAR

NEW SCHEDULE FOR WINNIPEG

The Insurance Rates to Be Changed With New Water Pressure System

CONFORMITY WITH EAST

City's Artesian Wells Are Now Giving Greater Water Supply

Winnipeg, Feb. 12.—For some time the insurance underwriters have been working on a new survey of the city in order that a new schedule may go into effect immediately upon the completion of the test of the high pressure plant. The present schedule in use in the city is what is known as the Pacific Coast schedule, and differs in many respects from the one in use in eastern Canada. The object of the insurance men is to bring about a greater uniformity in the rates, and so the eastern schedule will be introduced into Winnipeg, and gradually will replace other schedules in all parts of the Dominion. Thus, if a man has buildings in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Calgary, his rates will be the same, all other things being equal. The rates will vary only according to the kinds of buildings, the occupancy, the fire protection or other similar items.

An interesting situation is caused in Winnipeg because of the fact that the change of schedule will go into effect upon the acceptance by the city of the high pressure plant after the three months' test has been completed. The fire department is enthusiastic about the new plant, and is confident that it will make a vast difference in regard to the ability to deal with dangerous blazes. On the other hand, the change of schedule may in some cases offset the tendency which this plant will have towards lowering the rates.

"On the whole the rates will be lowered as a result of the new schedule," said W. H. Birch, secretary of the Manitoba and Northwest Fire Insurance company, this morning. "It will affect different properties in different ways, and each risk will be judged on its merits. Just as soon as the city accepts the new high pressure plant the district which is served by the high pressure system. But this will be but one of a number of things which will determine the rates in each case. However, as a general thing the rate throughout the city will be somewhat lower than at the present time."

According to a report submitted to the board of control by the city engineer, the greatest amount of water ever obtained from the city's artesian well system was pumped on Friday last. The number of gallons pumped was 6,089,857. Ever since the wells started to give results the daily amount pumped has been climbing higher, and now for the first time the six-million-gallon mark is passed. Throughout the week there has been only one day on which less than 5,000,000 gallons were pumped—an excellent showing when it is remembered that all last summer the daily average did not reach the latter amount.

ONE AGAINST A MOB

Georgia Prisoner Wounds Many Lynchers—Beaten to Death Before Hanging

Valdosta, Ga., Feb. 12.—Attacked by a mob of lynchers just across the Florida line yesterday, Jack Long, a white man, fought his assailants desperately, wounding ten of them and forcing the others to kill him in the fight. Long was arrested for killing James Sapp, a wealthy citizen. A son of Sapp's had killed a brother of Long's and escaped. Long saw the father of the slayer and shot him to death. Long was arrested and fifty men visited the prison and took the prisoner out to hang him. A spectator says Long fought the mob to a standstill in the prison, but was knocked down with a club as he ran out of the door. Then another fight ensued, in which the combined strength of the men was required to subdue the prisoner. A start to a place four hundred yards distant was made, but Long fought every inch of the way, the path being marked with splotches of blood. It is said he was beaten to death before he was finally hanged. Four of the members of the mob were wounded so badly that they may die.

GEORGE MEREDITH

Veteran Novelist Receives Showers of Congratulations on His 80th Birthday

London, Feb. 12.—The whole British press unites this morning in glowing tributes of affection and admiration for the novelist, George Meredith, whose eightieth birthday will be celebrated quietly today at his Box Hill retreat.

A small delegation, headed by Anthony Hope, will present a beautifully bound address of congratulation, signed by the poet, Swinburne, Thos. Hardy, John Morley and more than a hundred leaders of art, letters and scholarship in the United Kingdom.

Showers of congratulations are coming, including Charles Eliot Norton's address from America, and from the French Academy.

The London morning newspapers contain many leading poems by leaders, all of whom pay their tribute to the novelist.

Mr. Meredith is enjoying good health, and there would have been something in the nature of a national or international celebration but for the fact that he has a horror of publicity and steadfastly has opposed the idea.

LAKE SUPERIOR STOCK

Effort of Canadian Improvement Company to Prevent Voting of Pledged Shares

New York, Feb. 12.—Chas. E. Orvis, president of the Canadian Improvement company, was a witness today before Judge Garrison in Jersey City, when the case of the Canadian Improvement company against the Lake Superior corporation came up for hearing.

Some time ago the suit was brought to restrain the holders of the stock pledged to secure loans from voting on the stock at the Lake Superior Corporation election. The real defendants are banks spoken of in the allegation as the associated banks of Philadelphia and the firm of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., of New York. The Lake Superior corporation own a railroad in Canada and a manufacturing plant at Sault Ste Marie, Ontario. Its assets are about twelve million dollars. It owes about $5,000,000, according to statements made in the suit.

The Canadian Improvement company, which was organized last year to finance the Lake Superior company, obtained an extension for one year on notes given to the banks on the Lake Superior stock. The banks claim the right of voting on the pledged stock, as they allege the extension of time was given with the understanding that the holders of pledged stock would have the right to vote on it. Mr. Orvis said today when giving his testimony that he did not understand that the banks had renewed the notes on condition that they should have the power to vote on the pledged stock.

Appointed to Treasury.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The president sent to the senate today the nomination of Louis A. Coolidge, of Massachusetts, to be assistant secretary of the treasury to succeed J. E. Edwards, resigned.

SEARCHING RUINS FOR VICTIMS' BODIES

Sad Task for Workmen at Ile Perrot—Two Are Not Yet Found

Vaudreuil, Que., Feb. 12.—Until darkness settled down on Ile Perrot tonight, from fifteen to twenty employees of the Standard Explosive works searched among the ruins of the nitro-glycerine factory and in the surrounding snow for the remains of their late fellow workmen, who lost their lives in Tuesday's explosion. The gruesome fruit of their work throughout the day was the recovery of the remains of only two of the four victims, whose remains had not been identified among those collected in the mortuary chamber on Tuesday night.

The remains of Trepanier and Robillard have yet to be discovered, and a thorough search will be recommenced. During the day four mournful processions crossed the bridge from the island to Vaudreuil, as all that could be recovered of the bodies of Arthur Legault, Joseph Rosen, Pierre Menard and David Dunberry were placed in separate caskets and borne across to their homes in the village. The remains of Joseph Heripin were conveyed to the other side of Ile Perrot, where he lived, and where he will be buried. The villagers will tomorrow forenoon unite to attend the separate funeral services of Arthur Legault, Joseph Rosen and Perre Menard, which will be held in the Vaudreuil parish church at the hours of 8, 9 and 10 o'clock respectively. Father Godin, the local parish priest, and Vicar Meloche will officiate, assisted by Father Forbes, of St. Anne de Bellevue.

While these services will be attended by the villagers in general they will be more or less of a private nature, the general service being reserved until Tuesday morning. In this respect, Jesse Johnson, manager of the explosive works, offered that the company should bear the expenses of a general interment on Tuesday morning of all the remains that had not been identified.

NEW CHINESE CONSULS

Complete Staff for Western World is Said to Be Coming With New Ambassador

Tokio, Feb. 12.—Wu Ting Fang, minister from China to Washington, will sail for America tomorrow on the Siberia, accompanied by 32 students.

San Francisco, Feb. 12.—It is said here that with the coming of Minister Wu, who replaces Chan Trung Liang Chang, who left Washington last July, there will be a complete change of the Chinese consular service in the new world, for the members of his suite will be new officials, who are coming to represent the Chinese government in foreign parts.

Besides the new consul-general at San Francisco there will be in the Wu party the new consuls for New York, the City of Mexico, Lima and Havana. New consuls for the Pacific islands and Honolulu will start for their respective stations at the same time the others do.

Miners on Strike.

Duquern, Ill., Feb. 12.—Following a stormy meeting yesterday between the miners and operators, one thousand miners employed by the Crora Clinch company, of Chicago, went on strike here today. The trouble originated over the price of powder, which the operators have been selling the miners.

Fire on Brooklyn Pier.

New York, Feb. 12.—The explosion of cans of kerosene which were being prepared for shipment in a shed on a pier of the Standard Oil works at the foot of North Twelfth street, Brooklyn, today, set fire to and destroyed the shed, pier and a two-story brick building adjoining it. The building was used as a boxing department. The loss is about $125,000.

ELECTION TALKS OF REPUBLICANS

Senator Foraker Gives His Views on Ohio's Support of Taft

MANIPULATION IS CHARGED

Ex-Senator Brackett Sharply Attacks President's Course of Action

Washington, Feb. 12.—U. S. Senator J. B. Foraker tonight gave out a statement as to the result of the primary elections in Ohio on Tuesday, when the Taft forces made practically a clean sweep in the selection of delegates to the coming Republican state convention. Senator Foraker said in part: "Nobody should be either surprised or misled by the result of the primaries held in Ohia yesterday. It has been common knowledge for weeks that the call for these primaries was of such a character that my friends throughout the state refused to participate. Consequently there was no opposition to the selection of Taft delegates. Under such circumstances he would of course carry everything.

"Referring to the state convention, it should be borne in mind that it will be composed of representatives of only one faction of the party. Not because the people have so decided, but because the course of Mr. Taft's managers was to bar everyone else out of participating."

Attack on President.

Troy, N.Y., Feb. 12.—Ex-Senator Brackett strongly criticized President Roosevelt's administration in a speech tonight before the Republican club of Renssalaer county, which observed Lincoln's birthday. Ex-Senator Brackett denounced the policy of the executive in unmeasured terms, and said the present panicky conditions were largely the result of the attitude taken by the president. He said the president had assumed all branches of government and dictated. He practically charged White House influence over the government, and said that a parting of the ways had come for Republicans at the coming election.

Ex-Senator Brackett said: "If the legislative branch of the government has become broken down, or is breaking down, what are we going to do, you and I? Shall we sit down and say we are helpless in the presence of a greater political power than that possessed by any ruler on the globe? I cannot think so."

Ottawa's Bonds.

Ottawa, Feb. 12.—The board of control decided today to renew the loan of $750,000 for three months that it has with Parrs bank, of London, England, rather than sell its bonds in this market.

Crowded Steamer in Collision.

Naples, Feb. 12.—The Italian Lloyds steamer Florida, which sailed from here tonight with 112 passengers for New York, was in collision soon after leaving her dock with the steamer Perseo, of the Italian General Navigation Co. The Perseo sank, but there were no casualties.

Senator Rayner's Views

Washington, Feb. 12.—Senator Rayner, of Maryland, spoke at length today in the senate on the currency bill, denouncing the present system of banking in the United States, and incidentally declaring that the president by his methods of fighting the encroachments of predatory wealth had done much to intensify the panic through which the country has recently passed.

JAPANESE EXCITE MORE SUSPICIONS

Experimenting on Cliffs That Overlook Santa Monica Bay

Santa Monica, Cal., Feb. 12.—On an unfrequented bluff which marks the northern limit of Santa Monica bay, seven Japanese have been for several days past engaged in experiments that have aroused the suspicions of settlers, as it is presumed that a portion of the American battleship fleet will spend several days in the bay. The Japanese have been engaged in making maps of the cliff along the bay, and a small pivot gun mounted on a cliff 185 feet above the sea was fired first in one direction and then in another. There is no theory as to the purpose of the party.

French Success in Morocco

Paris, Feb. 12.—Telegraphic advices received here from General d'Amade, the French commander in Morocco, state that he has occupied Kasbah 'uld Said without resistance and ravaged the surrounding country. The Caid of Mzab made submission.

Killed By a Horse

Carberry, Man. Feb. 12.—Mrs. S. Mahan was trampled to death by a vicious horse at her home near here today. Her husband was in Carberry at the time of the accident. Mrs. Mahan went out, after her children had gone to school, to feed the horses. A neighbor called to pay a visit, and not finding Mrs. Mahan at home she went to the stable and there found Mrs. Mahan lying unconscious and badly trampled beside one of the horses. She only lived a short time.

INTEGRITY OF NORWAY

Britain, Germany and Russia Guarantee Independence of Northern Kingdom

Paris, Feb. 12.—The treaty signed recently by Britain, Germany, Russia and Norway, the object of which is to guarantee the independence and integrity of Norway, was made public today. It provides that Norway shall cede to no power any part of her territory, and the signatories agree to recognize and respect the integrity of Norway and to act in concert in her support in the event of her being menaced by any power. The life of the treaty is ten years, but it will remain in force for a second decade if it is not nullified within eight years of its inauguration. The withdrawal of one of the parties does not make it impossible for the others to renew the treaty.

PORTUGUESE UNREST

New Government Declared To Have Pacified, But Not Disarmed Public Opinion

Lisbon, Feb. 12.—The Times this morning published a long despatch reviewing events in Portugal. It says that the situation is improving daily, and that the government adheres to its policy of conciliating public opinion, but that it would be a mistake to consider all danger over. One of the most widely read newspapers, continues the Times correspondent, the Socule, declares that the young king has pacified, but not disarmed, public opinion, and urges the widest application of the royal prerogative of mercy as the mainstay of the throne. The correspondent says the idea of bestowing upon the next cortes the character of a constituent assembly with a view to amending the present constitution, finds many supporters in the cabinet and council of state.

SILVER CURRENCY PLAN IS OUTLINED

Moreton Frewen, M. P., Addresses Committee at Washington

Washington, Feb. 12.—Moreton Frewen, of England, member of parliament, spoke before the house committee on banking and currency today in explanation of the Goschen system, which provides for a reserve of silver bullion to be held as security against trade silver paper, issued in denominations of $2.50 up to $10, not redeemable in gold, but silver. Mr. Frewen said that all hope of international bimetallism had disappeared, and that the Goschen plan could be applied in the United States without disturbing the present currency system. He declared to the committee that it would be more applicable here and in England than it would have been years ago. His idea was to have the United States adopt it first and let England take it up.

WORKMEN BURNED

Avalanche of Molten Steel From Broken Blast Furnace Overtakes Several Men

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 12—A dozen men were burned, two of them fatally, in a terrific explosion of molten steel at the Monongahela blast furnace of the National Tube company, Centre street, McKeesport, near here, early today.

The huge steel-plated furnace, one hundred feet in length, burst at the tap hole and fifty tons of liquid metal dropped to the floor, accompanied by explosions as it spread and splashed over the heads and bodies of the workmen nearby.

A slip in the furnace caused hundreds of tons of iron ore, coke and limestone to drop to the bottom, forcing the heavy steel plates apart. The men ran, but the metal splashed into the air when it struck the cold floor, and the detonations broke all the windows in the plant for a radius of two squares, causing intense excitement in the town.

King Edward's Greeting.

London, Feb. 12.—Among the early telegrams of congratulations received today at Box Hill, by George Meredith, the novelist, who is celebrating his eightieth birthday, was an extremely cordial greeting from King Edward.

Japan's Loan Arrangements.

Paris, Feb. 12.—It has not been possible to obtain confirmation of the report current here yesterday that the Japanese government is trying to float a loan in Paris through the Banque de Paris et des PaysBas. The only statement the Japanese embassy would make was that nothing was known of the matter, and a leading official of the bank in question characterized the assertion as totally inexact.

Farmers Against Automobiles

Toronto, Feb. 12.—Dr. Clapp, M. L. A. of South Bruce, has a monster petition from his constituents to be presented to the legislature, praying that that body should absolutely prohibit the use of automobiles on any roads except those of incorporated cities, towns and villages. The petitioners assert that the automobile has become a menace to life and property.

Educational Conventions.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Interest in today's work of the general convention of religious educational associations, centred in a reception and brief address to the delegates by the President of the United States at the White House. The president declared in his address that our material prosperity will avail but little unless it is built upon the superstructure of the higherr moral and spiritual life. Francis G. Peabody, of Massachusetts, was elected president of the association. The vice-presidents include A. H. MacKay, of Halifax, N. S

COMMONS TALKS ON SEED WHEAT

Conservatives Urge That Longer Time Be Allowed for Repayment

AMENDMENT VOTED DOWN

Leighton McCarthy Pleads for Encouragement of Shipbuilding

Ottawa, Feb. 11.—In the House of Commons today Mr. Lake brought up the question of seed grain for the northwest. In looking over the regulations Mr. Lake stated that he noticed that the time for repayment of the grain was only one year. It should be made three. Prices for seed grain in the west ranged from 90 cents to $1 per bushel. One year's crop had to provide for two years' expenses, and would leave the conditions at the end of the year almost as bad as at present. Mr. Lake hoped the report that the provincial governments were going to take chattel mortgages on the effects of those to whom the money was advanced was ill-founded. Mr. Lake was of the opinion that there should be no opening for petty tyranny in the distribution of the money, but that a thorough division should be made. He closed by moving in amendment that the repayments should be made in three annual instalments, instead of one year, and that any person desiring to pay up earlier should be allowed to do so.

In reply Mr. Oliver said it was not seriously unfair that a settler should be expected to repay the advance out of the crop grown from the seed. The provincial governments had to repay the Dominion at the end of the year, otherwise the amount would be deducted from the subsidies. Therefore it was right that the settler should repay in a like period.

Mr. Borden supported Mr. Lake's motion. He expressed confidence in Mr. Castle, in whose hands the distribution would be.

Mr. Knowles urged that newcomers as well as old-timers should be included in the distribution. Mr. Fielding thought it should be left in the hands of Mr. Oliver. There was no ground for thinking that any stern or unjust measures of securing repayment would be adopted. He urged Mr. Lake to withdraw his motion. Mr. Graney said the farmers were not asking for charity, and that the whole transaction should be on a business basis.

After speeches by Hon. Mr. Paterson, Mr. Henderson and Col. Hughes, the amendment was defeated by 94 to 54, a majority of 40 for the government. All the western Liberals voted with the government.

The house then went into committee of supply on the Marine and Fisheries estimates, and a debate ensued on the encouragement of the shipbuilding industry of Canada, Leighton McCarthy complaining that the industry suffered from a policy which allowed ships to go to the United States for repairs and return to Canada ports duty free. He would support the bonusing of shipbuilding in Canada.

The government made no definite announcement of policy.

According to returns brought down in the Commons today the cost of maintenance at the Royal Military college, Kingston, is 50 cents a day, of the permanent corps at Halifax 51½ cents, and of the permanent corps at Quebec 21 9-10 a day.

Dr. Pugsley gives notice of a bill to regulate the placing and maintaining of booms on international streams.

SOMEWHAT LONGER THAN ORDINARY LIFE

German Prosecutor Wishes an Offender Sentenced for 1,461 Years

Berlin, Feb. 11.—"The accused has incurred fines amounting to $2,000,000, or, in default, 1,461 years and two months' imprisonment," declared the state's attorney in the criminal division of Berlin county court, in the case against Otto Hugo for breach of the law of August 10, prohibiting the sale of non-Prussian lottery tickets within Prussian territory.

Paragraph 1 of the indictment says any person suspected in any way of the sale or offering of lottery tickets is liable to a fine ranging from $25 to $250 in each proved instance. Otto Hugo had received an order from a Copenhagen firm to address and send out 100,000 envelopes communicating circulars relating to a so-called colonial lottery, which afterwards proved to be a swindle. He issued 40,000 of the circulars and several recipients made complaint to the authorities.

On the hearing of the charges brought by the public prosecutor, the states attorney, in addressing the court, pleaded that an example should be made, and the accused fined $50 for each offense, making a total of $2,000,000. He demanded that as the accused had no means to pay he should be sentenced in default to a day's imprisonment for each $3.75 of the fine, which would work altogether to a sentence of 1,461 years, two months and a few days.

The court, however, decided that as the circulars had all been issued in two days, and thus technically only two offenses were committed, a fine of $375, or, in default, 100 days' imprisonment, would teach the defendant a lesson. The state's attorney entered an objection to the court's reading of the law. He contended that each issue of the circular constituted a separate offense, and he is now considering the advisability of asking for a revision of the case by a superior court.

TOUCH OF SPRING

Prairie Provinces Favored With Unexpected Mild Spell—Wild Geese Move North

Winnipeg, Feb. 11.—Spring weather came with a rush last night, and the snow fast disappeared. High temperatures prevail all over the prairie provinces, with heavy rain in Manitoba today. The mercury at Winnipeg is fifty above. Wild geese are reported to have been moving north for several days past.

COTTON PROFITS

President's Statement Shows Montreal Company Enjoyed Year of Prosperity

Montreal, Feb. 11.—At the annual meeting of the Montreal Cotton Company, held at non today, President Ewing said the past year had been the most successful in the history of the company. Referring to the recent troubles at the Valleyfield mills, Mr. Ewing said everything was now running smoothly. Sales for the year amounted to $2,962,000, and the profits to $453,200. After providing for the usual insurance and other reserves, writing off for depreciation on buildings, machinery and water power the company was able to pay a quarterly dividend of 1-3-4 per cent., being at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, and to carry forward the sum of $50,000 to the credit of profit and loss.

OHIO IS UNANIMOUS FOR SECRETARY TAFT

Delegates to State and National Conventions All in His Favor

Columbus, Feb. 11.—The result of the Republican primaries held today was for William H. Taft. Four delegates at large and twenty-two district delegates to the national convention in Chicago and the list of delegates to the state convention to be held on March 3 will be unanimously in favor of Taft.

Hardin county held no primaries. No opposition worth mentioning developed during the day. The supreme court destroyed all chances of success by the Foraker element in Cayuga county by declaring that the Taft county commission was the only valid organization of its kind in that county, and the selection of the delegation went by default, no ticket being placed in the field against the Taft candidates.

In Knox county the opposition to Taft had brought an independent ticket into the field, the independents, however, being all Foraker men. The Taft men won easily, the vote being about four to one in their favor. Actual voting for the delegates to the convention was carried on in but 35 of the total of 88 counties in the state,the Taft delegates in 52 counties having no opposition, and their names being simply certified as having been elected. No vote being taken in Hardin county, it was the general belief that the vote would be cast in 36 counties, but the failure of the Foraker mento bring out an opposition ticket in Cuyahoga county reduced the number by one.

The following statement was issued tonight by Arthur Ivorys, the manager of the Taft presidential campaign: "Ohio is for Taft. The result at the primaries today completes the demonstration. Every county (except one, with seven delegates) now has selected Taft delegates. The convention will be unanimously for Taft, for every one of the 815 delegates is for and is instructed for Taft. This unanimity also demonstrates that every one of the 46 delegates to the national convention will be for Taft."

GRANTS TO HOSPITALS BY THE PROVINCE

Bill Increasing the Per Capita Allowance Introduced By Hon. Dr. Young

The estimates to be brought down by the finance minister next week will include the usual grants to hospitals. The Provincial Royal Jubilee hospital of this city will be granted $15,000. The Royal Columbian Hospital will be granted $5,000. The institution at Vernon will also be remembered.

It is probable that the various institutions throughout the province will receive somewhat more liberal assistance. The per capita allowance in certain instances will be made to apply to a wider range of cases than is the practice at present. A bill to effect this was brought in by Hon. Dr. Young at the session of the legislature yesterday. By it the government per capita allowance will be made to apply to midwifery cases.

Winnipeg's Power Plnat.

Winnipeg, Feb. 11.—Cecil B. Smith of Toronto, engineer for the city's new power plant, is in the city to consult with the mayor and controllers in regard to that scheme.

Hamilton, Ont., Feb. 11.—In a fire which burned her home to the ground last night, Mrs. Jaggard, an old woman who resided alone on the mountain top, was so badly burned that she died. The old woman was an inveterate smoker, and it is thought she may have fallen asleep while smoking in bed and set fire to the bed clothing.

NATIONALITY OF VESSEL OFFICERS

House Discusses Bill Requiring Them to Be British Subjects

U. S. EXAMPLE IS QUOTED

Mr. Borden Brings Up Subject of Amendment to Shipping Act

Ottawa, Feb. 12.—The House of Commons today defeated Mr. Lancaster's bill providing that the masters and mates on all vessels plying on inland waters and in the coasting trade should be British subjects. The United States had a similar law. Today in Canadian waters most of the Canadian boats were officered by United States citizens.

Leighton, McCarthy, Dr. Reid, R. G. MacPherson, Dr. Sproule and R. L. Borden supported the bill, and Mr. McLean of Lunenburg opposed it.

Hon. Mr. Bordeur said that while he could not accept the whole principle of the bill, he had no objection to its going into the committee stage. He intimated that he would later introduce a bill which would cover some of the points in Mr. Lancaster's bill. The bill would have to be referred to the British government to clear up certain doubts.

Mr. Sinclair thought that the bill would cause irritation on the other side.

Mr. Borden then brought up the question of amendments to the British Mercantile Shipping act. He thought that Great Britain might consult Canada in respect to these, and suggested that a respectful dispatch from the Canadian government might be sent to the home government asking that this be done.

Mr. Lancaster's bill was finally referred to committee.

The other subject up during the day was the proposal to dam the St. Lawrence river near Cornwall, made by an American company. Mr. Gervaise brought the matter up and succeeded in obtaining a statement both from the premier and the minister of railways. Sir Wilfrid promised that if anything was done it would only be after consideration by parliament.

Mr. Oliver withdrew the bill to amend the irrigation act, explaining that after consultation with irrigation interests in the west it was the intention to introduce a new bill.

Mr. Gervaise inroduced a bill permitting wholesale and retail traders to combine for their trade protection in the same way as their employees can. The bill was read a first time.

There is a vigorous fight on in the private bills committee between the Western Rivers Improvement company and the Shuswap and Thompson Rivers Boom company. The former, which the Shields interests are promoting, is particularly concerned with the Thompson river, and offers to leave the Shuswap to the other company if given control of the former stream. The bills are to be further considered.

ROBBERS USE DYNAMITE

Wreck a Bank Building and Secure $12,000 in Cash—Fusilade of Shots

Richhill, Mo., Feb. 12.—Securing $12,000 in cash after dynamiting and totally wrecking the $9,000 building of the Farmers & Mechanics bank in this city, five bandits heavily armed terrorized the town here early today, and after exchanging shots with several armed citizens, escaped to the rough country to the south.

No one was injured by either the shots or the explosion. The dynamiting of the vault of the bank awakened the town and the population hurried to the bank building. Many arrived in time to see the robbers riding away. Some of the citizens opened fire, which was returned by the fugitives.

Cashier Jamieson said the thieves had secured all the available cash in the bank. The building was completely wrecked and many neighboring structures shattered by the explosion. The sheriff of the county organized a posse, but as the robbers had secured a good start, there is little prospect of their being overtaken.

Centenarian Ex-Slave

Williamsford, Ont., Feb. 12.—An ex-slave named Clayton is dead, at the age of 106.

A Toronto Countess Dead

Toronto, Feb. 12.—A cable from Rome announces the death of Countess Jessie Boyd Broglio D'Ajano, a daughter of the late David Walker, of the Walker house here.

York Loan Shareholders

Toronto, Feb. 12.—Official Referee Kappelle is ready to give judgment in four of the classes of York Loan shareholders, namely, the juvenile class, those with certificates purporting to carry a first claim on the assets of the company, shareholders who had turned over their stock for insurance policies, pianos and other articles.

Japanese Will Help

Los Angeles, Feb. 12.—The American-Japanese rapprochement was the feature of the meeting of the fleet committee in the council chambers today. The Japanese offer to help entertain Rear-Admiral Evans and his bluejackets was accepted in "the spirit in which it was made." The members of the committee considered that the voluntary offer of the Japanese was so extraordinarily magnanimous and praiseworthy that they passed a special resolution accepting the offer.