

Empress Mother of Czar Will Be Next Victim of Assassin Threatening Letter Received by Her in St. Petersburg

Petersburg, Feb. 18.—According to reports in circulation the empress mother has received a threatening letter warning her that she will be the next victim. Another rumor is that at a meeting of the grand dukes last night it was unanimously decided to withdraw all opposition to the assembling of a Zemsky Sobor and to recommend its immediate summoning to the emperor.

PEACE THOUGHTS HIT CZAR SERGIUS' END SOFTENS HIM

Strong influences at work to make Emperor Nicholas think of ending the war.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 18.—In diplomatic circles the opinion is quite generally expressed that yesterday's tragedy may be followed by the decision of the government to conclude peace.

At the same time, despite the official attitude maintained by the government there has been a growing appreciation of the difficulties of prosecuting the war in the midst of increasing complications at home, and as announced yesterday, the matter was actually the subject of formal consideration by the emperor and his ministers Feb. 16.

Strong influences, which it is understood, in spite of denials, are heralded by M. Witte (president of the committee of ministers), have been working actively in this direction. Gen. Gripenberg's revelations, followed by the murder of Grand Duke Sergius, in the opinion of some of the ablest diplomats, are not unlikely to lead the emperor definitely to decide upon peace.

In this connection the war office are already alarmed by the new danger threatening the Manchurian army from the systematic attempts making by Japanese and Chinese bandits to cut the line of communications back of the army. According to reports about 10,000 men, split up into bands of several hundred each, are operating from Mongolia, and are striking at the railroad.

A Russian detachment following up the Japanese band which cut the road below Harbin, fell into an ambush of two regularly organized Japanese regiments and was almost cut to pieces, losing half its men and one gun. The fear is that if the bands move further north or west they might interrupt communication to such an extent to make it impossible to supply the army. This danger has already compelled the triple reinforcement of the railroad guards below Harbin.

CAN'T STAND FORTY DEGREES.

Heir to Estate in Ireland Prefers Soldiering in the States.

New York, Feb. 18.—The Hon. Arthur Reginald French, eldest son and heir to the title and estates of Baron de Freyne, a large land owner in County Roscommon, Ireland, who arrives here Jan. 18, and was reported yesterday to the police as having mysteriously disappeared from his hotel, is at Fort Slocum, on David's Island, near New Rochelle, wearing the uniform of a private in the United States army.

"I enlisted because I had a pretty strong notion of doing so when I left home. I had an idea of going to Canada and joining the mounted police up there in the Northwest. But the more I heard and thought about that country and its 40 degrees below zero the less I liked it. So I just enlisted in the American army and I like it."

FIRE BURNS TO DEATH.

Bodies All Found in a Heap Inside the Front Door.

Island Falls, Maine, Feb. 18.—Five people were burned to death in a dwelling house at Howbrook plantation, about 50 miles north of here today. The bodies were all found in a heap inside the front door thru which an attempt evidently had been made to leave the house. The door was locked.

The dead are:
Mrs. John Shorey, aged 30, of Oakfield.
Daughter of Mrs. Shorey, aged 5.
Mrs. Samuel Antworth, aged 24, Howbrook.
Two daughters of Mrs. Antworth, aged 1 and 6.

PRESIDENT LOUDON ILL.

President Loudon has been ill with a severe attack of grip for the past week. He is still confined to his room.

EXTRAORDINARY SITTING OF THE RUSSIAN COUNCIL FOLLOWS ASSASSINATION

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 18.—An extraordinary sitting of the council of the empire has been summoned to consider the situation resulting from the assassination of Grand Duke Sergius.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 18.—Oppression like the shadow of doom seems to be hanging over the Russian capital. Bells are tolling and the people in the streets are awestruck at yesterday's bloody crime.

BERLIN, Feb. 18.—Emperor William was not present last night at the annual banquet of the Prussian house of lords, absenting himself out of respect to the late Grand Duke Sergius of Russia.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 18.—Prince Friedrich Leopold of Prussia, who had been visiting the emperor, started for Berlin at midnight.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—A Russian non-commissioned officer has confessed that he was bribed to put a loaded shell in a saluting gun on the occasion of the blessing of the waters of Neva.

PARIS, Feb. 18.—President Loubet, Premier Rouvier, the entire ministry and all the foreign ambassadors here have forwarded expressions of sympathy to the Russian embassy on the assassination of Grand Duke Sergius.

BOON TO CAUSE OF LIBERTY G. D. SERGIUS BETTER DEAD

Prof. Kershaw Sees Much Cause for Congratulation in the Worst Act of the Assassin.

Montreal, Que., Feb. 18.—(Special.)—Prof. Kershaw, the Brahmin professor from Bombay, who has spent the last few years as a professor in one of the colleges of St. Petersburg, believes that the death of the Grand Duke Sergius will be a great boon to the cause of liberty in Russia. He considered the late Grand Duke the most powerful of the reactionists.

"Fifty per cent. of the despotic element in Russia has been swept away," he said. "But there will be more oppression than ever until the remaining fifty per cent. is gone. Treppoff, the governor of St. Petersburg, was a great friend of the late Grand Duke. He will be terribly severe from now on."

The professor stated that Sergius was the best hated of all the grand dukes. The imperial family itself is beloved by the people, but the bureaucrats are despised. He does not think that the socialists can lead an open rebellion. They are not sufficiently organized.

"I must always oppose this principle of assassination," the professor concluded, with the spirit of the true Brahmin, which forbids the killing of anything.

THOSE WHO MOURN.

Grand Duchess Elizabeth Prostrated by Death of Husband.

Moscow, Feb. 18.—The bells of Moscow's 500 churches are tolling to-day, requiem masses are being celebrated and before many shrines priests are constantly chanting prayers for the repose of the soul of murdered Grand Duke Sergius. His remains still rest in the Choudoff Monastery, whither they were removed yesterday. The widowed Grand Duchess Elizabeth is prostrated. She was not able even to attend the requiem mass. Touching messages have been received by the grand duchess from Emperor Nicholas and her sister, the empress. Troops are patrolling inside the Kremlin, all the entrances of which are to be closed to the public. All the shops are closed and the newspapers are being printed with mourning borders. Some students have been roughly handled in the streets.

Leave It to Territories.

Winnipeg, Feb. 18.—Rev. Dr. Sparling, principal of Wesley College, Rev. Dr. Patrick, principal of Manitoba University, and Rev. Dr. Duval, express the opinion that the territories should be left to deal with the question of education.

CANDIDATE BUT DIDN'T WIN IT PATTERSON'S WIN A SURPRISE AS TOLD VARIOUS COMMISSION

Evidence Given on Awarding of Scholarships—How Council Divided on the Burton Award.

The university investigation, resumed Saturday at Osgoode Hall, did not produce any startling revelations. The witnesses consisted of three candidates for the scholarships of 1900 and three members of the university staff. They proved in a greater or less degree the statements in the "Junius, Jr." letters. Patterson's application for a bursary and Mr. Good's testimony regarding the former's half-heartedness in the contest went far to prove that Patterson must have secured the award mainly on account of latent ability. Prof. Miller's evidence with regard to Dr. McLennan's remark in council deprecating of McBain's work for the 1901 scholarship rather weakened that part of the sundry charges.

The commission commenced by reading two letters. One was from John Patterson, the successful candidate, to the registrar, stating that he felt that his work was not good enough for the scholarship, but asking that a bursary be given to him as stipulated in the regulations governing the award. He did not feel fit to enter the lists as a candidate.

The other was from J. W. McBean, another candidate in the same year. McBean's letter asked for an extension of time for handing in his thesis.

I. F. Hellmuth, representing the students, first introduced W. C. Good as a witness. Mr. Good was one of the candidates in 1900. He testified that once, when McBean and he had been in the president's room, Prof. McLennan had shown them a thesis written by Hogg the year before and said that was the sort of work he wanted. Shortly after Christmas Patterson had told his fellows that he had given up hope of competing for the scholarship because he could not solve the problem set for him.

When the award was made known great surprise at the result was evinced by the students. In their indignation they drew up a petition which they presented to the president. The latter block occupied by Walter Drew, general merchant, was next gutted. Here the fire was stopped from going further south.

The adjoining block north of the hardware occupied by Leroy Miller, druggist and optician, was next consumed. Dr. Kelly's office was partly torn down to prevent further northward course of the fire. After Dr. Kelly's barn was destroyed the fire was brought to a standstill.

Losses:
W. Drew, general merchant, some few drygoods saved, about \$7000, insured in Economical and London Mutual for \$4500.
McDonald and Wells, hardware, furniture, undertaking and implements.
WALTER DREW, general merchant.
LEROY MILLER, druggist and optician.
DR. KELLY'S office and barns.
MISS BUDD, dressmaking parlors.
MASONIC HALL.
About 3 o'clock fire was discovered in McDonald and Wells' hardware store. The fire had attained considerable headway before being discovered, and nothing could be done to save the block.

From the hardware store it quickly spread to the furniture and implement store in the rear. Then it spread both ways, north and south. The brick

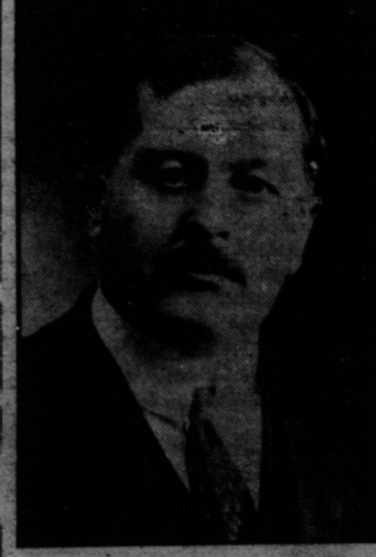
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Losses:
W. Drew, general merchant, some few drygoods saved, about \$7000, insured in Economical and London Mutual for \$4500.
McDonald and Wells, hardware, furniture and undertaking and implement business, nothing saved. Loss \$10,000. Insured in Canadian Gore and Mutual for \$6000.
Leroy Miller, druggist, some goods saved, loss about \$3000, some insurance, amount not known.
Masonic Hall, all destroyed.
Miss Budd, dressmaker store, completely destroyed.

The buildings were owned by the Davison estate, Harry Lendon of Leamington, being the heaviest loser on the buildings. Insurance on the buildings is not known.

Florence is a village in the Township of Euphemia in the west riding of Middlesex.



PROF. J. C. McLENNAN.

showed them the decision of the board of examiners and said to Mr. Good that he had expected him to get it. He had no hand in the examination of the theses, but he was much surprised at the award.

Mr. Hellmuth would have gone on to trace the fate of the theses, but the commission ruled that it was apart from the subject.

In reply to a question from Sir William Meredith, Good said he did not know the relative merits, but because Patterson had been allowed to compete improperly.

J. L. Hogg, Ph.D., who was also a candidate for the scholarship, was called. He corroborated the statements made by Good and was questioned closely by Prof. McGregor Young, in behalf of the president, as to the petition presented, and where the men who prepared it gained their information. Mr. Hogg did not know who prepared it. He signed it and took it for correct because he had heard all of the facts himself. He further said that he had come from Harvard after having seen the news of the investigation in a Toronto paper. He had also received letters from C. R. Jamieson, George N. Anderson, formerly a lecturer in the university, and Dr. Chant of the physics staff.

J. W. McBean gave evidence to the same effect as the other two. He himself had been late with his thesis and had handed it in late, asking for an extension of time. Then the council decided on his ineligibility. He it was who drew up the petition. The facts

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VILLAGE SWEEPED BY A FIERCE FIRE FLORENCE BUSINESS LOSS \$40,000

Early Morning Blaze on Saturday Does Much Damage to a Thriving Community.

Florence, Feb. 18.—The main business part of the town was to-day destroyed by fire. The total loss is about \$40,000. The following business places were destroyed:

McDONALD AND WELLS, hardware, furniture, undertaking and implements.
WALTER DREW, general merchant.
LEROY MILLER, druggist and optician.
DR. KELLY'S office and barns.
MISS BUDD, dressmaking parlors.
MASONIC HALL.

About 3 o'clock fire was discovered in McDonald and Wells' hardware store. The fire had attained considerable headway before being discovered, and nothing could be done to save the block.

From the hardware store it quickly spread to the furniture and implement store in the rear. Then it spread both ways, north and south. The brick

HARRIMAN THREW A SCARE INTO EQUITABLE INTERESTS

He and His Colleagues Were Willing to Pay \$5,000,000 in Order to Secure \$500,000,000.

New York, Feb. 18.—(Special.)—The incident which caused so much alarm in regard to young Mr. Hyde and his majority control of the Equitable Life was the fact that Mr. Harriman, now the greatest railway magnate in the United States, had with George Gould and Perry Belmont his associates offered over \$5,000,000 to Mr. Hyde for the controlling share of the proprietary company of the Equitable.

This controlling company is capitalized at \$100,000 of 1000 shares of \$100 each. Hyde and the members of his family have about three-quarters of these shares and the nominal capital of the three-quarters is \$75,000 limited to 7 per cent. dividends; but Mr. Harriman and his associates were willing to pay over \$5,000,000 for this \$75,000 of stock in order to have complete control of the \$500,000,000 of trust money accumulated in the Equitable Company for the benefit of its policyholders.

It was this impending danger that suggested to the president and the heads of departments of the Equitable to protest against Mr. Hyde having control of the company and induced them to demand that the policyholders who really own this \$500,000,000 of money should have a governing voice in the managing of this trust fund. If Harriman and his colleagues got control there was nothing to prevent them from lending the whole of the five hundred millions of the policyholders to their railroad and other propositions.

The fact that Chauncey M. Depew, the Ficus Achatas of the railway interests, made the speech that brought harmony out of chaos at the meeting of the directors is taken as a sign that Harriman is still a force in the land.

LAWSON TO HYDE.

Boston, Mass., Feb. 18.—Thomas W. Lawson to-night sent the following telegram:

"James H. Hyde, vice-president, Equitable Life Assurance Society, New York: I will pay you \$50,000 a share, \$10,000,000, for your majority holdings of 510 shares of Equitable stock, \$1,000,000 down to bind trade, balance ten days after management of company is delivered to my nominees, provided you guarantee to furnish all evidence of any fraudulent transactions which may have been committed by the company itself, and the companies it owns or controls, particularly a frauds upon policyholders by trustees or directors of the Equitable and associated and controlled companies. If you accept where the \$1,000,000 is to be deposited to-day. Kindly wire answer at once."
"Thomas W. Lawson."

Tried to Kill Prefect of Police.
Kishineff, Feb. 18.—The prefect of police of this town was attacked to-day by an unknown man, armed with a club. The assailant was arrested.

DEATHS.

HAZELTON.—On Feb. 16, 1905, at the Old Homestead, 7 Cumberland-street, city, Joseph Hazelton, sr., a resident of Toronto for the past 57 years.

Funeral Monday, at 3 p.m., to Mount Pleasant Cemetery. All friends invited. Greatest wish, no flowers.

HERBERT.—At Toronto Junction, on Feb. 18th, Charles John Herbert, eldest son of John Herbert, in his 39th year.

Funeral from his residence, 74 Dundas-street, on Tuesday morning, at 9 o'clock, to St. Cecilia's Church, thence to St. Michael's Cemetery.

SUNDAY WEATHER.

The weatherman promises that the day will be fine with more moderate temperature.

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

Feb. 18	At	From
Campagna	New York	Liverpool
Lusitania	Liverpool	New York
Parisian	Hull	Liverpool
St. Louis	New York	Southampton