

"TIMES" PLANT AT MONCTON FIRE SWEEP

Outbreak Began in Basement and Caused \$20,000 Damage.

PAPER TO ISSUE AS USUAL TODAY

Three Story Building Flooded With Water But Presses Are Undamaged.

Moncton, N. B., Dec. 15.—Fire which broke out in the basement of the Daily Times office tonight about ten o'clock caused damage that will keep the newspaper from working in all departments for some days.

The flames were first noticed at 10:15 o'clock by Frank Water, Canadian Press operator, who saw smoke issuing through the floor. Investigation showed that the whole front basement was on fire. The fire department was summoned and after a fight of two hours and a half, the fire was extinguished.

Three Story Building.

The Times Printing Company, limited, occupied a three story brick building. In the basement were the presses and paper room, while on the first floor were the business offices, stock room and mail room. On the second floor the editorial and composing rooms were located, while on the third floor was the job printing department.

Water Does Damage.

Most of the damage was done in the basement though the presses were undamaged except by water. Water also caused most of the damage on the other floors. The paper is being issued as usual tomorrow morning. The loss is estimated at between \$15,000 and \$20,000, covered by insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown.

TRUCE UNLIKELY WHILE LEADERS ARE IN PRISON

So Declares "President" De Valera of the Offer Made by Lloyd George.

URGES IRISH TO STAND FIRM YET

Will Return to Ireland Without British Permit Whenever He Wishes.

New York, Dec. 15.—Mr. Lloyd George "surely does not think the world will take his peace offer seriously," when the men who alone can speak for the people of Ireland are locked up in English prisons, Eamon De Valera, "President of the Irish Republic," declared in a statement here tonight.

De Valera said that he fully endorsed the message of "acting president" Arthur Griffith, advising the Irish people to hold fast; that he was ready to discuss a treaty of peace between the two nations; that he had full confidence in the men who were still "carrying on" in Ireland, and that he had not asked for Mr. Lloyd George's "permission to come to America" and would not ask for it when the time came for his return to Ireland.

BRITISH PREMIER'S SALARY LIKELY TO BE MUCH HIGHER

Salary Committee Expected to Recommend 8,000 Pounds Sterling as Pay.

London, Dec. 15.—The committee appointed by the House of Commons to report on salaries payable to cabinet ministers concluded its enquiry today. A good forecast says that it will recommend as follows: Prime Minister, £8,000 sterling; Cabinet minister, £5,000; Other ministers, £3,000; Under secretaries, £1,200 to £1,500 sterling as before.

CHINA TAKES GREEK PLACE ON COUNCIL

Geneva, Dec. 15.—China today took rank among the principal powers directing the affairs of the world through its entry into the council of the League of Nations in succession to Greece. The selection of China had been discounted since the assembly had previously adopted the recommendations of the committee on organization that another elective member be allotted to Asia.

New Brunswick and Maine Working Together Against Maine Border Run Runners

Boston, Dec. 15.—Run-running across the Canadian border is to be the object of a special drive by prohibition enforcement officials in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, it was announced today.

ENGINE UPSET, CARS DERAILED AT BEVERIDGE

Fireman and Brakeman Receive Severe Shaking up in the Accident.

ANDOVER FARMERS HOLDING POTATOES

Vocational Schools to be Opened at Andover, Perth and Aroostook Jct.

Special to The Standard.

Andover, N. B., Dec. 15.—The Toque Valley Railway malod train running from Plaster Rock to Perth left the rails at Beveridge, about ten miles south of Plaster Rock, this morning at ten o'clock. The locomotive was thrown over on its side and the cars derailed. Fortunately, however, the train was running at a low rate of speed, and no one was seriously hurt. The fireman and brakeman were shaken up and received some slight scratches.

Local buyers are offering \$2 per bushel for potatoes. Very few are being offered for sale as the farmers are holding them in hopes for better prices in the spring. Meetings were held this week at Andover, Perth and Aroostook Jct. for the purpose of starting night schools for vocational training at these centers. Mr. Prescott of the Provincial Vocational Training School Board, outlined the objects and advantages of these night schools. At all these places the citizens decided to open night schools, commencing the first of the year classes will be held twice a week. This work will be under supervision of the district vocational training school board which is to consist of the public school trustees and two other assistants.

INSURANCE CO. WINS ACTION IN MONCTON COURT

Jury Declares House Burned Was Insured Too High and Wrongly Described.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, N. B., Dec. 15.—In the Supreme Court, before Judge Chandler, the case of Nelson McDougall vs. the Dominion Fire Insurance Co., was concluded this afternoon, the result being a verdict in favor of the company. The court ordered judgment entered for the defendant with costs against plaintiff. The plaintiff brought action to recover \$700, the amount of insurance carried on his house, which was burned over a year ago. The company contended that an excessive valuation had been placed on the house and that the size of the building had been misrepresented in the application. The jury found in favor of the company on both these points and fixed the value of the house at the time it was burned at \$600, where as it was insured for \$700.

LLOYD GEORGE AIDS IRISH SINN FEIN HEAD

London, Dec. 15.—Premier Lloyd George today sent a reply to the recent request by the Rev. Michael O'Flanagan, acting president of the Sinn Fein, that time be accorded in which to consult with Eamon De Valera, and Arthur Griffith, founder of the Sinn Fein and now under arrest, respecting the endeavor being made to bring about a truce in Ireland. The premier in his reply informed O'Flanagan that facilities would be afforded him for seeing Arthur Griffith. Regarding De Valera, the premier wrote: "The ordinary methods of communication with America are fully open to you."

FORMER EMPRESS OF GERMANY IS SINKING

Doorn, Holland, Dec. 15.—The former Empress Augusta Victoria is steadily becoming weaker, says a bulletin issued from Doorn House today. Her condition remains critical.

ST. STEPHEN FIRE CAUSED \$65,000 LOSS

Dwelling, Barns and Warehouse of Henry Acker Are Entirely Consumed.

HUGE STOCK OF HIDES IS BURNED

Family Had Difficulty in Escaping from Smoke-Filled Residence.

Special to The Standard.

St. Stephen, N. B., Dec. 15.—With the wind a hurricane and rain falling in torrents at two o'clock Wednesday morning, the family of Henry Acker was awakened by flames and smoke that so held possession of their home that they barely escaped with their lives.

The fire is supposed to have started from a defective fire, and there was no controlling it, until almost every timber in the house, shed and barn had been consumed, together with all the contents.

Hay Made Great Blaze

A new full of hay made a spectacular blaze, and the whole fire, fanned by the great wind, illuminated the country for miles around. The property was the former homestead of the late Frederick L. Hamand, and was some of the highest points in the town. Mr. Acker had bought heavily of hides and skins a few months ago and great quantities of these and other goods were stored on the premises and destroyed.

Loss is Large

Much new, valuable furniture was also consumed. Mr. Acker is absent from town and not much can be learned of the loss or the insurance, though his son places the loss at from \$50,000 to \$65,000, largely, of course, on the hides and pelts. It is the only fire loss of any considerable amount occurring in St. Stephen this year.

Now Insured

The insurance was placed as follows:—Dwelling, \$5,000, in the Standard; J. M. Fyfeville; furniture, \$1,000, New York Underwriters, White and Calkin, St. John; warehouse, \$1,000, Montreal; stock, \$25,000, P. C. Murdoch, St. Stephen; insurance company of North America, \$5,000; Yorkshire, \$5,000; Acadia, \$5,000; Fyfeville; British Empire, \$3,500; C. E. L. Jarvis & Son, St. John; Aetna, \$2,000; H. Murchie; Atlas, \$1,500; White and Calkin.

DOMINION STEEL TO ANNOUNCE ITS MERGER POSITION

Meetings at Montreal Fail to Agree Yet Upon Definite Plans.

Montreal, Dec. 15.—Directors of the Dominion Steel Corporation held several protracted meetings here today, at which, according to the generally accepted belief in market and financial circles, the British Empire Steel merger affair was discussed. It was, however, announced tonight that the business transacted by the board was of a routine nature and no statement would be made as to the details involved. A further meeting of the directors it was learned, will be held late in the current week, and some authoritative announcements in connection with the consolidation will be made pending which matters will remain in statu quo for the present. The belief, however, prevails in market circles that the ambitious undertaking projected nearly a year ago in the form of the British Empire Steel consolidation has been definitely abandoned.

FUR AUCTION DIVIDEND

Montreal, Dec. 15.—Shareholders of the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company, limited, held their first annual meeting here today. No action was taken on the preferred dividend; the directors deciding to await a clarification of the situation before announcing the usual quarterly dividend of 1.34 per cent.

SCOTLAND'S REFERENDUM

London, Dec. 15.—In the Scottish prohibition vote which has been going on now for some weeks, Aberdeen has given a majority in favor of "no change" in 15 wards. The exception to the general rule in Scotland was furnished by Rathen where the fishing population of the place carried a "no license" majority by 548 to 295. There is only one office in the parish. The "no change" majority at Fraserburgh was only 40.

WIFE TOLD HUSBAND DEAD

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—The news of the discovery at Galveston, Texas, of the body of a man, who, it is believed, was positively identified as that of T. Hammill, has been conveyed to J. T. Hammill, who has been conveyed to Fort Worth, accompanied by Dr. Robertson, family physician.

WORLD NEWS TODAY

CANADA

Moncton, N. B. "Times" is damaged by fire to the extent of about \$20,000.

Henry Acker, merchant at St. Stephen, N. B., has all property burned with a loss of \$65,000.

Premiers of the three prairie provinces in conference with Hon. Mr. Meighen regarding claims of the provinces for control of own natural resources.

New Brunswick and Maine authorities plan great drive against the border run runners.

Hon. Mr. Carvell tells express companies that increases, if granted, will be only temporary.

Engine upset at Beveridge, N. B., and train derailed but no one injured seriously.

THE UNITED STATES

Silver mines in Arizona cut wages \$1 as a result of drop in silver prices.

New Canadian vessel reaches port after terrific battle against waves while off sunken ledge all night.

THE BRITISH ISLES

Canon Magner, parish priest near Cork, is shot dead by policeman in street when he interfered in wrangle between bicycle rider and officer. Policeman will be court martialled.

EUROPE

Austria has been admitted to the League of Nations.

The condition of the ex-Empress of Germany is much worse and her death at an early date is anticipated.

PASSENGERS ON KNEES; CREW AT PACKET'S PUMPS

Night of Terror for Ninety-Nine People on Whaler "Serina"

FORCED TO ANCHOR NEAR SUNKEN ROCKS

When Vessel Was Towed to Port Captain Led in Prayer of Thanksgiving.

New Bedford, Mass., Dec. 15.—Deliverance came today to the Fortinque packet "Serina," which had tangled at her anchors through the night almost on the Dumping Rocks, off the Dartmouth shore, while her crew pumped for their lives to keep out a rush of water, and sixty-four passengers huddled in the hold on their knees in prayer.

Her bowsprit was broken, the foremast split and her sails were torn to shreds by the gale before a tugboat poked past the rocks this morning and towed her here.

STILL NO TRACE OF BIG BALLOON FROM ROCKAWAY

Feared Now That Daring Party May Be Lost in Northern Quebec.

Saranac Lake, N. Y., Dec. 15.—Communication with various sections of the Adirondack Mountains tonight failed to throw light on the fate of the naval balloon which left Rockaway Point, N. Y., on Monday night, for Canada, and which was last reported Tuesday night near Wells, Hamilton County. Woodsman familiar with wind conditions believe that the balloon, unless met with accident, probably has drifted into Quebec or Ontario.

MURDER VICTIM FOUND IN RIVER

Police of Northern Ontario Search Bush for Companion of Dead Man.

Cochrane, Ont., Dec. 15.—Drawn from a water hole in the ice-bound Frederick River, the badly disfigured body of Victor Gelette lies in the morgue here, while the police are scouring the district for Patrick Dubord, who is wanted in connection with the man's death. A warrant has been sworn out by Provincial Constable Campbell against Dubord, who is thought to be in hiding in the bush north of this town. Deceased was last seen with Gelette "batched" on his farm, four miles from Frederick House Village, and about eight miles from here.

LUXURY TAX ROUSES IRE OF MONTREAL

Board of Trade Will Demand Government Remove Trade Measure at Once.

SUGGESTS TAX ON FIRM GROSS SALES

Action Taken is Similar to That of the C. M. A. and Wholesale Dry Goods Assn.

Montreal, Dec. 15.—At this afternoon's meeting of the council of the Board of Trade, it was unanimously decided to take steps to approach the government urging the abolition of the luxury tax, and, if necessary, such amendment of the sales tax as would provide for a tax on gross sales of turnover of all firms, including retailers, as to cover any revenue losses caused by the repeal of the luxury tax.

This follows recent discussion by the Board of Trade, action by the Wholesale Dry Goods Association, and projected action by the Montreal branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, with other trade bodies, along the same lines looking to abolition of the luxury tax.

WIRE FLASHES

Telegraphic News Condensed from Last Minute Messages for Quick Reading.

Two Civilians Killed

London, Dec. 15.—Two civilians were killed when Canon Magner was shot in Cork today.

Serbian Cabinet Quits

Belgrade, Serbia, Dec. 15.—The cabinet headed by Dr. Milenkovic has resigned.

Paris, Dec. 15.—The Council of Ambassadors today approved the settlement concerning the passage of Allied warships through the Kiel Canal.

To Deport Martens

Washington, Dec. 15.—Deportation of Ludwig C. A. K. Martens, self-styled Russian Soviet Ambassador to the United States, by Lloyd George, has been decided upon by Secretary of Labor Wilson.

Enormous Christmas Mail

Southampton, Dec. 15.—The White Star liner Olympic sailed for New York this morning, carrying 5,000 Christmas mail packages and 2,000 passengers. The company was compelled to refuse 700 applications for berths.

Still Hold Dardanelles

London, Dec. 15.—In the Commons today in the debate on the defense estimates, Premier Lloyd George announced that whatever the changes in the Greek Government, the guardianship of the Dardanelles Straits must remain under control of Great Britain, France and Italy.

Festivities at End

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 15.—The festivities in connection with the centenary celebration of St. Mary's Cathedral were brought to a close tonight with a big banquet at St. Mary's Society Hall.

Senate Members Angry

Washington, Dec. 15.—Ten members of the Senate in a joint letter today urged the United States Department to protest to the British Government the recent refusal of the Embassy here to vize passports for members of the Committee appointed to make a first-hand investigation of conditions in Ireland.

Lumbermen's Wages Cut

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—A cut of almost 100 per cent in woodmen's wages is reported at the offices of F. H. Wright, local employment agent for the Alberta Power and Pulp Company. Wages of \$85 to \$100 a month with board which had prevailed up till a week ago have dropped to a level of from \$45 to \$60.

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Silver Mine Wages Cut One Dollar By Biggest Copper Mine of Arizona

New York, Dec. 15.—A reduction of \$1 in the wages of the higher priced miners at the Phelps Dodge Corporation's copper mines in Arizona will become effective January 1, an official of the corporation announced here today. It was reported in financial circles that other copper companies were to make similar reductions in existing wage scales.

GRAZING LANDS OF IRELAND TO GO TO FARMERS

Such is the Plan of the Republicans if They Cut from Britain.

DIVIDE PROPERTY IN SMALL BLOCKS

Witness Before Self-Appointed Commission Presents Outline of Proposed Rule.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The system of government which Irish republicans leaders propose to set up in Ireland was described as "an ideal co-operative commonwealth" by Laurence Ginnell, former Irish member of the British Parliament in testimony today before the "Commission of the Committee of One Hundred" investigating the Irish question.

Mr. Ginnell, who declined to appear before the commission until he had been assured that it would not "attempt to go behind the present Irish Republic" in any of its recommendations, presented a rough draft of the governmental system proposed by the Irish Republicans.

Socialist Tendencies

The ancient Breton laws, from which many of the present-day Socialist doctrines are derived, Mr. Ginnell said, probably will form the basis for Ireland's form of government should the efforts of the Republican leaders to gain political independence from Great Britain prove successful.

He told the committee he had written a book on Socialism, obtaining his material from these laws.

Land in Ireland Apportioned under the British Land Act for tilling, he said, has been leased to "favored cattle raisers" necessitating migration at intervals of a large part of the population in some districts to England to find work.

Break Up Land Areas

The governmental system, which the Irish Republicans plan to put into effect, he said, contemplate "breaking up" of the large tracts of land in Ireland, now used for grazing, and distributing them in smaller parcels to suitable persons to be tilled.

Mr. Ginnell, as well as Miss Ruth Russell, another witness who last year investigated conditions in Ireland for the Chicago Daily News, declared that the religious issue in Ireland has been "artificially stimulated" and exaggerated.

LAD CLAIMS HE WAS KIDNAPPED

Youth Missing a Month Declares He Was Held by Russian Band.

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 15.—Henry Kinsman, 19 years old, who disappeared from his boarding house on Nov. 16, returned late last night and told his friends that he had been kidnapped, robbed of \$12 and held prisoner by foreigners, supposedly Russians.

Kinsman said he was kept in ignorance of his whereabouts during the month, but part of the time he had to put wood and sleep in a bunk in a log house, at the time guarded by an armed man.

Caught on Street. He said that on the night of his disappearance he was seized while walking on a street in the eastern section of this city and bundled into an automobile by two men who held revolvers to his face threateningly.

No motive for the abduction and subsequent detention was suggested by Kinsman upon his return to his friends.

MISSING SHIP FOUND.

Port Arthur, Ont., Dec. 15.—The steamer Winona which was reported in a despatch from Toledo to be missing, was "spoken" by wireless at 2 o'clock this afternoon at Detroit.

AUSTRIA ADMITTED TO NATIONS LEAGUE

Geneva, Dec. 15.—Austria was elected a member of the League of Nations by the Assembly of the League today.

The election of Austria was without opposition. Thirty-five votes were cast in favor of her admission. Two members were absent and four abstained from voting.

CANON MAGNER IS SHOT DOWN BY POLICEMAN

Sensational Killing Near Cork When Priest Interfered in Street Arrest.

POLICEMAN WILL BE COURT MARTIALED

Claim is Made That Prelate Was Taking a Walk When Tragedy Occurred.

Cork, Dec. 15.—Canon Magner, parish priest of Dunmanway, County Cork, was killed today by a policeman according to meager details of the tragedy reaching here. While taking a walk, Canon Magner came upon a bicyclist and a police officer engaged in an altercation.

The policeman, it is alleged, was threatening the bicyclist, in whose behalf the canon intervened, whereupon, it is asserted, the policeman shot him dead, the incident being witnessed by a local resident magistrate.

Court Martial Policeman. The policeman was arrested and, it is understood will be court martialled. The affair has caused an immense sensation here and throughout the district.

Canon Magner, who was 70 years old, and well known, served in several parishes of the Cork diocese. He was a moderate Nationalist of the Redmond school but in recent years had avoided politics.

Condemn The British.

Chicago, Dec. 15.—The city council today unanimously adopted a resolution condemning what it termed "the armed invasion of Ireland by Great Britain." Copies will be sent to Lloyd George, Sir Hamar Greenwood, Secretary of State Colby, the United States ambassador and to the House of Representatives.

Condemn Bishop's Sermon

New York, Dec. 15.—A cable message protesting against the use of his "spiritual authority in British interests" was sent to Bishop Daniel Cohalan of Cork today by the American Association for the recognition of the Irish Republic, occasioned by a sermon he preached in the Cathedral of Cork last Sunday.

THREE PRAIRIE PREMIERS SEE FEDERAL CHIEF

Differences Between the Dominion and the Provinces Discussed at Capital.

LEGISLATION WILL BE BEFORE COMMONS

Hon. Mr. Meighen Says Entire Case Will be Discussed by Members.

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—Sinking a possible settlement of the differences between the Dominion government and the governments of the prairie provinces with regard to the question of natural resources, the premiers of the three western provinces met Hon. Arthur Meighen, and members of the Dominion cabinet this afternoon and discussed the question from various angles.

After the meeting, at which the case of the Manitoba government was presented by Attorney General Johnson, of that province, the premiers returned to their hotel, where they discussed matters further amongst themselves.

The Situation Now.

Premier Norris of Manitoba stated that matters had reached a stage, as the result of today's conference, where it was for the governments of the Dominion and the various provinces interested to draw up legislation which would be acceptable to the legislatures and to the Dominion parliament. A similar statement was later made by Hon. Arthur Meighen, who stated that today's conference had been a canvassing of all possible methods of settlement in the endeavor to reach a solution which would prove acceptable, through parliament, to the people of the whole Dominion.

SOLDIERS TO FORCE DELIVERY OF WHEAT BY TEUTON FARMERS

Gov't Alleges Grain is Being Hoarded—Security Police to Enforce Order.

Berlin, Dec. 15.—The Prussian Government has issued an order to the provisional authorities to employ armed forces where necessary to compel the farmers to turn in the 1920 wheat yield, which it is alleged is being hoarded. It is stated that a large percentage of the last crop has not been accounted for. Wheat is still being rationed throughout Germany. The security police have been instructed to hold themselves in readiness to enforce the government's order.