

EXPEDITION HAD NARROW ESCAPE

SEARCHING PARTIES ABANDONED THE WORK

Mount Pelee Again Poured Forth Molten Matter From New Craters—Another Eruption.

New York, May 21.—A Herald dispatch from St. Kitts, W. I., says: "Capt. Magras, of the French sloop Iscellina, in from St. Bartholomew, reports that when passing Montserrat, a small volcanic island lying northwest of Guadalupe, he heard an explosion and saw flames burst from the side of one of the mountains."

Driven to Boats. Port de France, Island of Martinique, May 19.—The expedition sent to recover the bodies of the American and British consuls at St. Pierre to-day nearly resulted in a fearful horror. The vessels taking part in the expedition were the United States steamer Potomac and the British cruiser Indomitable. The Potomac, under the command of Lieut. Ben. B. McCormick, arrived there first at 11 o'clock in the morning and landed working parties. One party went to the site of the American consulate, and the other, headed by Lieut. McCormick, went to the spot where the British consulate stood. From there the lieutenant could see Mount Pelee and noticed that a huge column of smoke and gas was pouring out of the crater in a manner similar to the eruption of May 8th last. He thereupon rushed to the site of the American consulate and ordered all hands to the boats. The American sailors pick up a heavy metallic coffin in a wood-case containing the remains of the United States consul, Thomas T. Prentiss, and carried it to a boat. The American party was in imminent danger.

MINERAL CLAIMS

Prinze No. 8 Mineral of the West Coast, Vancouver Division of Geology, located, Sidney, B. C.

Thomas Rhymer Mar. Certificate No. 80773. From the date hereof, his recorder for a Certificate of Improvement of the above.

Notice that action, under the provisions of the Certificate of Improvement of April, A. D., 1902.

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accompanied by Senator Knight, president of the legislature of Martinique, yesterday morning on the French cruiser Souchet, to reconnoitre in the direction of the volcano. The officials of the ministry of the colonies were much disturbed by this morning's dispatches from Fort de France. They thought that the worst was over, but the cable messages seem to indicate that another catastrophe is impending.

No confirmation had been received here of the dispatches reporting that Fort de France is being evacuated. As the latest official cables stated that Governor L'Escuré had gone to reconnoitre the scene of this volcanic disturbance, it is probable that no further official news will be received for 8 or 10 hours.

Fleeing to Hills. Castries, Island of St. Lucia, B. W. I., May 21.—Reports received here to-day confirm the dispatches announcing that a panic prevailed at Port de France, Martinique, yesterday. The town was covered with ashes, stones were falling and a tidal wave added to the terror of the population, which was flying to the hills. Three hundred refugees have just arrived here, and thousands have embarked for the neighboring islands.

Card Playing and Dancing Discussed. Proposal to Change Rules of the Methodist Church Voted Down at the Conference.

Vancouver, May 20.—The Methodist stationing committee was in session until 1 o'clock this morning, making changes in the stations which will be announced in a couple of days. Important changes are being made. A resolution of thanks was passed this morning to Mayor Neelands for giving the casting vote at the council last night to close all-night saloons from 1 to 5 a.m. Rev. Mr. Calvert, West church, New Westminster, has resigned to take the position of bursar at Columbian College, which is now in better condition than ever before. Two thousand dollars were yesterday raised for the college funds. Additional powers were given Principal Sippell. The conference will probably meet at Victoria next year.

Vancouver, May 21.—After a session lasting four hours, the Methodist conference last night decided not to inaugurate card playing and dancing at the churches and kindred amusements. This was the question of chief interest, and the debate was at times very exciting.

Rev. W. W. Baer, Nanaimo, was champion of the proposal to change the rule, on the ground that the absolute prohibition of these amusements could not be enforced, that rule was regularly disregarded, and was never intended to be enforced. He maintained that the church was thus placed in a false position, and the rules should either be lived up to or taken off.

Rev. Elliott S. Howe, of Victoria, while not advocating the motion for the entire expurgation of the rule, agreed that a change was necessary, taking the broad view that theatres were not all bad, and severely criticising ministers of the Gospel for suggesting to the minds of young people evils which attend dances, etc., when they would otherwise never think of them. Northern missionaries are particularly wanted to know what the Indians would do if a church going back on its own rule.

It was the opinion of President Scott that, leaving out of the question the propriety of the original introduction of the objectionable rule, it would be a bad policy to recede now they were there.

The motion was lost as well as all amendments seeking to change the rule. Prof. Sippell, this morning appointed delegates to the general conference. The final draft of stations will be submitted to-morrow.

ANOTHER COMBINE. Large Number of Independent Biscuit Companies Will Unite.

Chicago, Ill., May 20.—The independent biscuit companies throughout the country will soon be combined in a giant rival to the National Biscuit Company. Several of the largest independent concerns have already entered into an agreement to unite, and steps are now being taken by the officers of the Union Biscuit Company, of St. Louis, are designed to amalgamate most of the 150 independent companies into one corporation.

ST. PAUL STRIKE. Men Will Return to Work on New Schedule Prepared by Builders' Exchange.

St. Paul, Minn., May 20.—The strike which has been in the building trades since early in the month was practically settled last night, and the men will go back to work. The Builders' Exchange announced yesterday that they would put into effect a new schedule, giving the carpenters a raise of 73 cents per hour. Bricklayers are to get an advance of five cents an hour. The demands of the hoisting engineers are granted. The Exchange announced that these terms would apply to all wage workers, whether union or non-union, and do not involve recognition of the trades and labor union.

WIND STORM. Many Persons Injured, Buildings Overturned and Trees Uprooted.

Duluth, Minn., May 20.—A wind storm of great violence swept Duluth last evening. Several people were injured. The wind played havoc in the lumber districts. Small buildings were overturned and numerous trees were blown down. The shipping in the harbor was blown about. Many valuable records of the United States government engineer's office were destroyed by a flood of water.

BRITISH COLUMBIA NOT REPRESENTED

AT FISHERY CONFERENCE IN FEDERAL CAPITAL

All Other Provinces Have Representatives Present—Will Last a Couple of Days.

Ottawa, May 20.—The conference between the Dominion and the provinces interested in fisheries took place here to-day. All the provinces were represented except British Columbia. Its interests in fisheries are such that it was expected it would be represented. The conference will likely last a couple of days. The ministers present for the Dominion were: Messrs. Sutherland, Blair, Fielding, Tarte, Patterson and Templeman. The provinces are represented by premiers and other members of the governments.

A Change. Major Cockburn, Toronto, has resigned his position on the coronation contingent, and Major Forrester has got his place.

At Ottawa. Fred Peters, K. C., and Dan Mann are at present visiting the Capital.

Ottawa, May 21.—The fishery conference closed to-day at noon. Another meeting will probably be held later on. The only result is that the opinion is almost general that the Dominion is the proper authority to administer the fisheries in the interests of the country. However, nothing definite was done.

Timber Wanted. A cable has been received by the government from the Governor of the Windward Islands asking that the \$25,000 voted by the Dominion for the St. Vincent disaster be forwarded in timber for the erection of houses. The matter has not yet been put to the cabinet.

At the railway committee to-day the Victoria, Vancouver & Eastern railway applied to-day for approval of plans for a branch to Columbia and Grand Forks from its main line. Mr. Boland, Toronto, for the Kettle River Valley, opposed it. He said the Canadian Northern was behind it. He maintained that there was no evidence that the company intended building the main line, and that this was only a branch to draw traffic to the south. Hon. A. G. Blair said that he would allow the application to stand until the company showed its earnestness to build the main line, as it was not customary to build branches before there was any main line.

CHINESE AFFAIRS. Bible Society's Agent Tells of Present Situation—Is of Opinion that the Bible.

New York, May 20.—The Rev. Dr. John R. Hykes, agent of the American Bible Society in Shanghai, China, has submitted a report to the society on the condition and outlook in China. Dr. Hykes says the question of a recurrence of the recent troubles in China depends on whether the government of the Empire wants another outbreak. If it does, the uprising will take place and in the manner prescribed, according to Dr. Hykes.

As a result of an edict directing that the sons of Manchus and Mongols shall be chosen to go abroad and study, there has been an unheard of demand for foreign books, Scriptures included. One government college has applied for a grant for 50 Bibles for the use of its students, and old scholars are scattered over the world in the government service in the capacity of translators and interpreters and teachers of English.

One of the signs of the times, says Dr. Hykes, is a remarkable movement on the part of some of the highest officials in the land to make a re-translation or revision of the Bible with the view of putting it into what they consider a more worthy literary form. This work is now in progress, with the Imperial sanction. The officials hope thus to acquit the official class with the contents of the Bible and remove their prejudice against it, and thereby against Christians and Christianity.

The society issued more Mandarin Bibles in the last three months of this year than would have been considered ample stock for eight years a decade ago.

ATTACK BY BOERS. Force Repulsed at Aberdeen and the Commander Killed.

Middleberg, Cape Colony, May 20.—The town of Aberdeen (about 75 miles south of Middleberg) was attacked on Sunday last by 120 Boers, who were repulsed, and Vanberden, the commander, was killed.

There May Be a Split. Pretoria, May 20.—While it is hard to sift out the truth from the mass of contradictory reports that are floating in here from Vereeniging, Transvaal, where the Boer delegates are in conference, the best information obtainable leads to the belief that there are a number of obstacles in the way of a peaceful settlement. In summing up the situation at Vereeniging, it is safe to say that a majority of the Transvaalers, including the Transvaal government, is in favor of peace, while the representatives of the Orange Free State, with a few influential exceptions, declare they will not renounce independence. Strange enough, General Dewet, who was most intransigent at the last conference, is now quite a strong advocate of peace.

Lord Kildercer certainly will not expect the concessions already offered to the delegates, so there is no doubt that it would delay an immediate settlement of the matter before the conference, would certainly hasten the final solution of the situation in the field.

CONDITIONS WHICH OBTAIN IN JAPAN. A Yokohama Newspaper Manager Tells of the Operation of the House Tax.

C. L. Duhan, manager of the Japan Daily Advertiser, Yokohama, arrived on the steamer Shinano Maru this morning on a tour of the world. He left Yokohama on May 16th, and expects to reach London about the 1st of August.

GENERAL WOOD ON THE WORK IN CUBA

TURNED OVER TO CUBANS YESTERDAY

He Says New Government Will Find a Departments Equipped and in Running Order.

New York, May 20.—In a dispatch from Havana, the World publishes over the signature of General Leonard Wood a review of the work accomplished during the American regime in the island, the government of which will be handed over to-day to the Cubans. Public order, says the article, is perfect throughout the island. Cuba is free from all contagious diseases and its death rate compares favorably with that of the United States. An efficient and well equipped school system has been established. The hospitals, charities and jails have been reorganized, rebuilt and re-equipped. During the past year 25 per cent. of the total revenues of the island went into public education. Schools have been constructed at the rate of more than one a day for the past year. The lighthouses have been rebuilt and re-equipped, and two first class lights have been fully supplied with buoys and lanterns for harbor patrol work. The courts have been built and the service fully organized and equipped. The same is true of the custom service and launches. Complete quarantine and immigration service has been established. The courts have been reorganized and re-equipped. Free schools for typewriting and stenography have been opened. A new law of public works has been written on the lines followed by the United States government. Cities like San Diego and Havana have undergone a sanitary reconstruction. The payment of public officials is practically the same as in the United States.

Mr. Duhan reports no startling news from the Far East, the House tax question being the one main topic occupying the minds of foreigners in Japan who have been left. This tax has been levied on all foreigners holding property on original concessions granted by the Japanese government immediately after Perry's expedition, and in addition to imposing a tax upon foreign houses had been thought of until after the treaty revision in 1898, and in fact was not put into force until this year, when distraints were made in Kobe and Nagasaki. In all cases payment was made to the authorities under protest as the land was given to the foreigners out and out with no provision for an extra levy in the case of improvement. The unfortunate complication seems to have arisen from a misconception in the mind of the Japanese as to what constitutes personal and real estate. The land originally was intended to be held in perpetuity, no provision having been made for any improvements, no matter of what nature, that might be made thereafter upon the land thus given. As foreign governments are now taking the matter up and the Japanese having signified their willingness to submit the question to arbitration, it is almost certain that the moneys detained will be returned after the matter has been amicably settled.

It is learned from Mr. Duhan that Mr. Meyer returned to Japan on the Tean Maru about a month ago, and custody of Mr. E. G. Smith, United States deputy marshal, and was handed over to the Japanese authorities. He is now awaiting trial in the Nigehsi prison near Yokohama. Meyer was charged with forging bonds of the Yokohama Steam Laundry Company, using the name of Mr. E. V. Thorn, of the "Box and Barrel" firm, and the fact that his name was on the case seems to be rather complicated, and there are many difficult points to prove in his connection.

In closing Mr. Duhan said, in speaking of Japan, that it is a great mistake to think that the country has been robbed of all its form of uniqueness. Many people suppose that the Japan of to-day is a state of transition, and is rapidly becoming Europeanized. While this may be true of the treaty ports and on the line of tourist travel to some extent, still any one digressing from the usual well-trodden paths will find that the Mikado's domain of to-day is in the same state of ancient simplicity as it was before she strove to take on the mantle of "so-called" Western civilization.

As the day advanced the heat became intense. The actual transfer of the control of the island was scheduled to occur exactly at noon, Havana time, which is 12:30 p. m. Washington time, but those invited to witness the ceremony were requested to be at the palace at 11:30 a. m. The ceremony in the palace was brief and simple. After formal greetings, Gen. Wood read the document of transfer prepared by the war department pledging the new government to immediately proclaim the constitution, and the President announced that he appointed and to undertake all obligations assumed by the United States with respect to Cuba by the treaty of Paris.

Senor Estrada Palma attached his signature to the document as president of the Republic. After an exchange of congratulations the old veteran, Gen. Gomez, ascended to the roof of the palace. He was instantly recognized and met with an immense demonstration of welcome. Gen. Wood himself undid the halyards of the flag, lowered the American colors and with his own hands hoisted the Cuban flag as an act of the United States.

As the flag flew free the streets below fairly waved with the cheer that rose. It was caught up by the people on the roofs and rolled over the city. A national salute of 21 guns was given. Three foreign warships hoisted the flag of Cuba to their mast heads and bestowed upon it the honors due to nations. The ensign of Great Britain and Italy recognized the republic. Gen. Wood and his staff and the American troops embarked immediately upon the hoisting of the Cuban flag, and the American ships steamed out of the harbor. While this was taking place at Havana a similar scene was being enacted at Santiago, where Gen. Whiteside turned over the authority to his Cuban successor, and sailed away with two troops of cavalry. Only eight batteries of American artillery remained on Cuban soil.

After the departure of the Americans the Cubans resumed their festivities. The official programme for the celebration on Friday and Saturday next made its appearance to-day. It is quite an attractive little pamphlet, and will make a pleasing souvenir for visitors to carry away with them. The cover is the work of the B. C. Photo Engraving Company, and thoroughly in keeping with the general appearance of the programme. It bears a picture of the late Queen, neatly set forth, together with the usual descriptive matters. Views of the park, parliament buildings, the Arm, the drydock at Esquimalt, Government street and the harbor appear on the various pages. The printing was done by the Colonist.

The labor of the committees having in hand the arrangements for the celebration are now practically completed. They were commenced in good time and prosecuted with marked dispatch. The citizens have responded liberally to the demand made upon their exchequers, realizing that Victoria's hold on this holiday celebration this year unsurpassed in local history.

The work of the decoration committees is now before them. The decorations which elicited such admiring comment from members of the Royal party when last fall, in fact from their Royal Highnesses themselves, will be in use this year. It is to be hoped that the members of the committee will draw upon all the artistic talent they have at their command and give the city some-thing new in the way of adornment. The streets to be decorated are Government, Johnson and Yates, which will also be illuminated by incandescent lamps strung across at various intervals. The committee are anxious that the citizens should decorate their establishments in town as well as their residences to lighten the general effort.

Each day will be well filled with attractions. Rifle shooting commences at Clover Point range at 9 a.m. on Friday. A large number of visiting athletes will participate in competitive sports to be held at Beacon Hill. A large number of athletes have been received for both events. Following the competitive sports there will be a grand exhibition by members of the Victoria Athletic Club. This will be as near as possible a repetition of the exhibition given by the club at their hall some time ago. Between 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. the public will have an opportunity of inspecting His Majesty's warships at Esquimalt through the kind permission of Rear-Admiral Bickford.

The Grandin, Shearwater, Phleaton and the other vessels will be in the harbor. The Egeria has gone north and will therefore not be in port. At 11 a.m. the yacht races will be held. A large number of visiting flyers will participate in the home fleet will be strongly represented, including the six new yachts of the one design class. The big baseball match between the Victorians and the crack nine of the University of California takes place at Oak Bay park in the afternoon. This match will undoubtedly draw a bumper crowd, as the visitors have left behind them a trail of victories, and feel confident that more scalps will hang at their girdles when they depart from Victoria. The first day will be finished by a grand display of fireworks, illumination of the park and the band concert.

Saturday will be an equally busy day. The festivities start with the championship lacrosse match in the Caledonian grounds between the Victoria and New Westminster lacrosse teams. This is the first time these two teams will have met this season, and the struggle is bound to prove a great one. New Westminster plays as strongly as ever, while the Victoria aggregation are more formidable than they have been for years. Trap shooting commences at Beacon Hill at 11 o'clock Saturday morning, and not on Friday, as erroneously announced the other day. Quite a number of trap shots from the Mainland and the other side will be in attendance. At the same hour will commence the cricket match between the Tacoma and Seattle teams as the Victoria and Beacon Hill. At noon the guns of the forts and His Majesty's ships at Esquimalt will boom out the Royal salute in honor of the King's birthday.

The regatta will commence at 1 p.m., being opened by a single shot. At 2 o'clock on Oak Bay the second match between the Victoria and University baseball nines will be played. At 8 p.m. there will be a band concert on the streets and illumination of the principal thoroughfares in the city. During both days of the celebration the provincial museum will be thrown open to the public. Special arrangements have been made by the transportation companies to handle the large crowds expected from the Mainland, Sound and up the line, and to-morrow night should see a large number of visitors in the city.

COMMITTEES HAVE COMPLETED WORK

ARE NOW READY FOR THE CELEBRATION

With Exception of Decorations Nothing Remains to Be Done—Forecast of the Attractions.

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MR. GREENSHIELDS WAS EXCEEDINGLY ANGRY

Says He Can't Raise a Postage Stamp on the Government's New Railway Bill.

J. N. Greenshields, K. C., and "accidental representative" of British Columbia, Victoria, last evening, after relieving his mind very freely in regard to the latest edition of the government's railway policy. When it suited his convenience to enlighten a minister on his views he did so with an abandon which was remarkable in one reputed to be in the employ of the ministry. But he did not confine his remarks to ministers, and a man did not require to be even a publicist to obtain his opinions on the right-about-face tactics of his principals.

Mr. Greenshields deprived of the possibility of lifting that enormous load which he did so with an abandon which was very wroth, and he let everyone know it. He would have preferred to see the bill withdrawn altogether he said. He further intimated that the ministry could devote the bill itself to an ignominious purpose which he designated, or to any other which they chose, for he could not raise a postage stamp on 188 conditions.

The clause relating to the control of rates in the hands of the Governor-in-council was alone sufficient, he said, to prevent the building of the line. In fact Mr. Greenshields, with the great acumen which has been repeatedly attributed to him by ministers, saw in the measure a deliberate attempt to block railway construction, instead of to encourage it. The government's success in blocking railway development, as illustrated in the Loan bill of last year, has given them pointers on how to sidetrack railways when the country will not stand the granting of franchises to the government's own pets.

The opposition had a caucus this morning when their attitude to the new measure was decided. If the railway bills are promptly brought down and disposed of now by the administration, it is likely the opposition will allow the government to get through their estimates expeditiously, in which case the session may terminate in ten days.

CALLED ON PAUNCEFOTE. President Roosevelt, Spent Some Time at British Embassy Yesterday.

New York, May 21.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: "President Roosevelt has created a flutter in the diplomatic corps by calling at the British embassy and remaining for three-quarters of an hour with Lord Pauncefoot and the members of the family. When the President called at the German embassy and paid his respects to Prince Henry, and subsequently lunched with the latter on board the Hohenzollern, he broke a custom which forbade the chief executive of the nation to set foot in a foreign embassy or legation or on board a foreign man-of-war. Because of the extra territorial character of these places. By visiting the British embassy, he has inaugurated the practice of calling upon ambassadors. He will, it is said, dine on Friday night at the French embassy. In calling upon Lord Pauncefoot, who is seriously ill, diplomats say that the President has done a graceful thing and appreciate it as a compliment to the entire corps. At the same time, it is pointed out, comment would be occasioned should the President fall now to call upon the other ambassadors. The rulers of Europe make it a practice to pay visits of courtesy to ambassadors on the ground that these diplomats represent the persons of their sovereigns. The President has met the several ambassadors here, and it is said that now he has broken the ice he will call upon all of them."

DUBLIN, FREE FIGHT. Dublin, May 19.—A county election contest at Galway led to a series of free fights here yesterday. Lord Morris and Kilkenny, county council for Galway, and formerly high sheriff of that county, personally led his supporters against his Nationalist opponents. A dozen men were wounded, some of them seriously, during the rioting.