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NO. 26.

SOME TEN BUILDINGS DESTROYED IN FIERCE BLAZE AT BATHURST.

Conflagration Raged from Noon Till 7.30 O'Clock Monday Night Estimate Loss at \$20,000--Gallant Fight at Opera House Saved the Town.

Bathurst, N. B., Dec. 14--(Special)--Bathurst was visited today by a destructive fire which, breaking out in Miss Helen Meahan's general store in Main street, was still blazing at 7.30 o'clock this evening, but at that hour there was no further immediate danger.

The firemen had a hard battle in face of a westerly gale, and in bitterly cold weather. Some ten buildings have gone down, and were it not that the Opera House was saved--and by a hard fight--the town would likely have been destroyed.

After an hour's pumping, the fire was under control, and confined to the Meahan building, but a mishap to the engine stopped the water, the fire took on new life, and the building was destroyed.

The new Opera House, a three story wooden structure to the eastward of the fire, was saved by desperate efforts.

Here the fight of the day was made; for it was evident that if the Opera House took fire 40th side of the street would be the town practically be wiped out.

The fire next broke out in a house occupied by Joseph Doucet, barber, east of the Opera House, and rapidly spread to and burned McKenna Bros. two houses and every stable, Mrs. McLean's dry goods store, house and barn; R. D. Southwood's store, H. Kent's store, the office of J. E. O'Brien, Donal Bros. bakery, J. Pitre's harness shop, Gunning's harness

shop, and the Great North West telegraph office.

Early in the fire a wire was sent to Newcastle for help, and it was quickly responded to by the sending of the engine, hose and men from that town. On arrival, however, the engine could not be worked, but the men, with the hose attached to the Bathurst engine, rendered valuable assistance.

At 7.30 o'clock the fire is still burning, but there is no further immediate danger. The district covered was so lengthy that it was not sufficient hose to reach to the furthest end.

The saving of the Opera House saved the town, and the fact that it now stands only partially destroyed is a monument to the work and heroism of the firemen.

The loss will reach about \$20,000, but it is impossible to give particulars tonight. The insurance covers about one-half the loss.

FOSTER TELLS WHAT CHAMBERLAIN WANTS.

Trade Arrangement With Colonies; That's All--Chamberlain Wants.

Canada's Ex-Finance Minister at Montreal Last Night Gave a Description of His Campaign in England, and Told What a Hold the Question of Fiscal Reform Has on the People--Mr. Tarte Moves Resolution Endorsing the Ex-Colonial Secretary's Scheme, Which Carries.

Montreal, Dec. 14--(Special)--Hon. Geo. E. Foster addressed a great public meeting here tonight under the auspices of the Sir John A. Macdonald Club, on the fiscal campaign in England, in which he lately took a prominent part.

The Windsor Hall, where the meeting was held, was crowded by a representative gathering, and Mr. Foster received a great reception. He spoke for more than an hour, and was frequently interrupted by applause.

Mr. Foster, in opening, said he was going to give his impressions as an interested supporter of the great movement of the present going on in England. He was not going to undertake the role of a prophet. In addressing audiences in Great Britain he had made it quite plain to them that he held no mandate for the government, that he did not have the expressed opinion in black and white of the whole Canadian people in his pocket, that he simply stood before them as a citizen of the empire, born, for free rights of public speech within the empire.

On the other hand he had no expressed declaration of the people of Great Britain as to what they thought on this great question, or as to what they were going to do. He simply intended to give them his impressions as one who, to some extent, had participated in the struggle.

Mr. Foster proceeded to say that not even a statement of Mr. Chamberlain's influence and brilliancy, could have raised the question to such an important and delicate place as it now occupied, and that he had been thinking of the subject for some time. He said that he was free to confess that, until he arrived in England he had no idea of the importance of the movement and that he had been thinking of the subject for some time.

Mr. Foster pointed out that while under free trade it was the individual against the individual and corporation against the corporation, in the present movement it stood the government with its protection, while behind the British individual and British corporation, there was no government, but a master mind, the movement had been converted to free trade, but the national idea had become stronger year by year. That was the condition and that was the great underlying principle of the movement.

Under such conditions was the British Empire to keep its place? Could it do so until it was a great consolidated empire? These had been the principal operative reasons that had led up to the present agitation.

AMERICANS ENFORCE AN ANNOYING LAW AGAINST CANADIANS.

Passengers Arriving from the Provinces Must Now Take an Oath in Regard to Their Personal Baggage--Steamship Men Say New Rule Will Kill Tourist Business, and Want Law Rescinded.

Boston, Dec. 14--It is understood that the Boston representatives of the steamship companies operating between the maritime provinces and this city, will hold a meeting tomorrow for the purpose of considering a plan to have the treasury department at Washington rescind or modify an order obliging passengers from the provinces to make the same declarations regarding their personal effects as apply to those coming from abroad on ocean steamships.

The new departure, which went into effect upon the arrival of the steamship Boston of the Dominion Atlantic line from Yarmouth (N. S.), will cause such a delay, it is claimed, especially in the height of the summer tourist season, that a strong protest will undoubtedly be made by the companies.

Unless the ruling is abrogated or in some way modified, the effect upon the passenger business of the companies cannot fail to be very serious, in the opinion of the agents.

How the Rule Works. (Boston Globe, Dec. 14.) The steamer Boston, Capt. Stanwood, which arrived at Long wharf yesterday from Yarmouth (N. S.) was the first arrival since the new order was promulgated. The steamer was delayed two hours and she did not make her berth until noon.

The 67 passengers on board were anxious to leave for their homes, as most of them resided in the city or suburbs, but they were obliged to wait while each individual made declaration as to whether there was dutiable goods in his baggage, their valuation, etc. The examination delayed the passengers about four times as long as the former methods employed where the inspectors looked over the baggage of each passenger. This is also done under the new arrangement.

Steel combine orders big cut in employees' wages. 150,000 Will Get from Five to Twenty Per Cent. Less Pay After January 1.

New York, Dec. 14--The statement was made today by a leading official of the United States Steel Corporation that beginning January 1, 1904, about 90 per cent. of the employees of the corporation will suffer wage reductions ranging from five to twenty per cent.

This reduction will affect about 150,000 workmen in the various grades of the subsidiary companies. The remaining ten per cent. of employees are members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel & Tin Workers, whose wage schedule runs to July 1, 1904.

CHINESE DEPORTED FROM UNITED STATES CAN'T REMAIN IN CANADA.

Important Decision Rendered at Montreal, Whereby Ten Mongolians Got Out Writs of Habeas Corpus.

Montreal, Dec. 14--(Special)--A decision was rendered in the practice court today holding that Canadian courts have no right to interfere with the agreement between the United States government and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, whereby the railway carries back to China all its Chinese passengers denied admission across the border.

Opinion on the point was expressed by Judge Levesque giving judgment in habeas corpus proceedings on behalf of ten Chinamen who wished to pay the poll tax and remain in Canada. In respect to refused entrance to the United States, the court decided the company had the right to deport the Chinese back to Hong Kong.

EX-CIVIL SERVANTS NOT ASSESSABLE.

Judge Decides That Ottawa Cannot Tax Superannuation Incomes.

Ottawa, Dec. 12--Important decisions on Ottawa assessment appeals were handed down yesterday by Judge Liddell. The first case arose from the appeals of a number of superannuated civil servants against the assessment of their incomes from such superannuation.

The judge holds that the allowance of retired civil servants of the Federal government is not taxable for local municipal purposes. This judgment applies to the appeals of Col. Tilson, Col. White, R. Simpson, and others. Another point decided by the judge is as regards the income assessment of Ottawa residents, whose incomes are earned in Hull. In respect to this point the judge holds "that the income of a resident of Ontario, wholly derived from earnings outside the province, is not liable to taxation for local municipal purposes under any act or authority of the local legislature."

RECORD SESSION OF CANADA'S SUPREME COURT.

Ottawa, Dec. 14--(Special)--The supreme court has just finished the longest continuous session in its history. At the opening of the court on Oct. 6, there had been set down to be heard eighteen cases from the maritime provinces, thirteen from the province of Quebec, two from the Yukon Territory, eight from British Columbia, five from Manitoba, and ten from Ontario, a total of fifty-six appeals.

In addition to this, the court dealt with a number of applications for leave to appeal and motion to quash. At the close of the session, the court had heard and given judgment in all the cases except eight, which were argued during the last two weeks, and stand over for judgment.

ENGINEER KILLED IN C. P. R. SMASH-UP.

Winnipeg, Dec. 14--(Special)--A serious accident occurred on Napinka section of the C. P. R., about five miles east of Killarney, this morning. Engineer Graham, of Winnipeg, and Fireman O'Hara and Baggageman Nichols, both of Winnipeg, were killed. Passenger train with Engineer Graham at the throttle plowing way through big piles of snow when engine struck an immense drift, down hard and solid. The engine struck, derailed the baggage, and gave cars. The remainder of the train. No passengers.

Was a Century Old Tuesday.

Brockton, Mass., Dec. 14--Mrs. Mary A. Baraby, of this city, will celebrate her 100th birthday tomorrow. She was born in Nicolet (P. Q.) She is in exceptionally good health, and faculties are all good.

OTTAWA PRIEST BLIND FROM HIS INJURIES.

Father McGurty, Who Was So Badly Hurt in University Fire, Likely to Die.

Ottawa, Dec. 14--(Special)--Rev. Father McGurty, who was hurt in the Ottawa University fire, is blind. His sight failed in a hazy yesterday. He is weaker today than he has been since the fire, and unless the "iron" leaves him, which has racked him almost continually since the accident, there can be little hope of saving his life. Father McGurty came here from Lowell (Mass).

There is nothing in the report that the Dominion government is likely to offer a judgment to Premier Haiglain of the Northwest Territories. The vacancy on the supreme court bench of the territories, caused by the retirement of Justice Rich, adviser, may go to H. W. Newlands, the legal adviser of the Yukon, but the latter has not yet come before council.

BRITAIN AND HOLLAND WANT GUARANTEE OF \$15,000,000 FROM PANAMA.

London, Dec. 15--The correspondent of the Morning Leader at The Hague, says it is reported there that both Holland and Great Britain insist that the Republic of Panama shall assume liability for \$15,000,000 of the Colombian debt.

BIG CARGO OF CAPE BRETON COAL FOR SWEDEN.

Sydney, N. S. W., Dec. 14--(Special)--The Swedish steamer Oscar II, Capt. Paterson, sailed this morning for Stockholm, Sweden, with a cargo of about 5,000 tons of coal.

Maine Lumber Mills Burned.

Alfred, Me., Dec. 14--The lumber mills, owned by the Alfred Shakers and leased by B. C. Jordan, of this town, were burned to the ground this afternoon. The contents being destroyed. It is believed that the fire caught from an overheated stove No. 3--the room where the employees eat and sleep. Considerable machinery was destroyed, including several circular saws, No. 1--Bryce's saw, No. 2--Bryce's saw, a steam engine and other machinery. The mills were in first class condition and the estimated loss will exceed \$100,000, probably covered by insurance.

NAVIGATION SEASON AT BANGOR ABOUT OVER.

Weather Very Cold and Penobscot Freezing Over--Only Two Vessels in Port.

Bangor, Me., Dec. 14--The temperature is falling rapidly here tonight under the influence of a brisk northwester, and ice is fast forming in the Penobscot, and ice may close to navigation Tuesday. Only two vessels remain here--the Italian bark Leone, loading for Catania, and the schooner Maggie Mulvey, discharging coal. Both of these will be towed out Tuesday.

The season has been notable for large receipts of coal, about 300,000 tons having been landed here. Lumber has been in good demand at prices above the average of the past ten years, but much time was lost on account of the late arrival of the log drives.

WILL THEY CATCH HIM IN TIME TO HANG HIM?

Mounted Police Pursuing Ernest Cashel, Escaped Murderer, Who Was to Have Been Executed Today.

Calgary, N. W. T., Dec. 14--(Special)--Ernest Cashel, the escaped murderer, who was to have been executed tomorrow, has been discovered hiding in the hills near here. The mounted police are in hot pursuit.

CLERGUE'S COMPANY DECLARED INSOLVENT.

Toronto Court Orders the Business to Be Wound Up.

Toronto, Dec. 14--(Special)--The court today declared the Lake Superior Consolidated Company insolvent and granted an order to wind up the company. This will likely prevent the sale by Spyer & Co. in New York tomorrow.

R. L. BORDEN SPEAKS AT ANNAPOLIS.

Annapolis, N. S., Dec. 14--(Special)--R. L. Borden arrived here today from Halifax and was met at the station by J. B. Mills. A public meeting in the interests of the Conservative party was held in the Academy of Music in the evening, J. B. Mills presiding, while on the platform were a number of prominent men of the party from different sections of the country.

He was greeted with a large audience, which included a number of ladies and a large sprinkling of Liberals. Mr. Borden, the nominee of the party for the county, and Mr. O'Mullin, of Halifax.

Labor Unions Not Wanted in Chicago's Employ.

Chicago, Dec. 14--The invasion of the municipal territory by labor unions was today ordered stopped by Mayor Harrison.

The voicing of the mayor's sentiments along this line was occasioned by the receipt of an appeal from union engineers of the fire department asking for increased wages.

PETITCODIAC BOY CHOKED TO DEATH.

Young Son of R. G. Colpitts Got a Kernel of Corn in His Windpipe, and Died 20 Minutes Later--Other News.

Petitcodiac, N. B., Dec. 14--The people of this community were shocked to learn of the death of the young son of R. G. Colpitts. The little fellow, Friday p. m., Dec. 11, while playing with an ear of corn swallowed a kernel. The kernel lodged in the wind pipe, and in about twenty minutes he was dead. R. C. Colpitts is manager of the Pellet River Lumber Company. Much sympathy is felt for the parents.

The pulpit of the Methodist church was occupied by the Rev. J. Pascal at both evening and morning services. The Rev. Abraham Terry, who was seriously injured by a horse, is on the way to recovery. James Chapman is busily employed shipping Hemlock bark to St. John. Chapman expects to ship about 100 cords to the Winter Port. Was a Century Old Tuesday. Brockton, Mass., Dec. 14--Mrs. Mary A. Baraby, of this city, will celebrate her 100th birthday tomorrow. She was born in Nicolet (P. Q.) She is in exceptionally good health, and faculties are all good. (Continued on page 3, third column.)