

TELEPHONE LINES UNDER POSTAL DEPARTMENT

Advocated in United States House of Representatives Yesterday.
NOT DIFFICULT FINANCIAL FEAT
Rep. Lewis of Maryland Says Would Cost Less Than a Billion Dollars to Carry Out Scheme.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Government ownership of the nation's telephone lines would cost less than \$900,000,000 and would present no greater difficulties of financing than did the Panama Canal, Representative Lewis of Maryland, told the House today in an exhaustive analysis of his proposal to have those lines operated by the post office department.

Representative Lewis, who took a leading part in the establishment of the parcel post, and who has made a study, with post office officials, of government ownership of the electrical lines of communications, does not propose to have the government take over the telephone companies. His plan is to have the government first own the telephonic network of the country, operate some of the telephone lines as telegraphs, as is now possible under modern mechanical conditions, and have the private system compete with the government telegraph company.

The perversion of the laws of public and private financing, said Mr. Lewis, "by which public governments have been disinherited of their normal functions, has led to such corruption and demoralization that cities like Philadelphia with its gas works, and San Francisco with its telephone system have shamed the nations and corruption in their most dishonorable days."

Investigation discloses that our telegraphic rates are the highest among all countries. The result of these abnormal rates is that we rank but ninth as telegraph users. Against these conditions it appears that our postal rates average larger than the other countries, and the system of letters here is the highest in the world.

The telegraph companies seem to be lacking in institutional economy or efficiency. The operation of sending a telegram is longer in the same proportion as the parcel post compared with the postal rates of other countries, not less than fifty of which would be repaid by affixing the postal stamp.

A striking feature is the discovery that the telegraph service is a relatively declining institution, and that it would be unwise now to postulate it alone, and as a single service. To take over the telegraph lines alone and operate them merely as telegraph lines might result in postal bankruptcy.

SYNDICATE BUYS OUT ISLAND FOX FARM
James Tuplin Sells His Interest in the Industry, as Well as Farm and Oyster Business.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Dec. 22.—The Tuplin fox deal which has been under negotiation for some time has finally gone through.

MOTHER AND SON KILLED BY EXPRESS TRAIN

Were Driving Into Calais and Attempted to Cross Railway Tracks — Woman Terribly Mangled.

Special to The Standard.
St. Stephen, Dec. 22.—Death came in a shocking form to a mother and her son near Calais today. Mrs. John Ahearn, aged about fifty years, and her son Daniel, about twelve years of age were driving into Calais from their home at Baileyville and reached the crossing of the Washington county railway just as the noon express bound into Calais came along. The woman was driving and hearing the train coming stopped the team about sixty feet from the track. Then recklessly concluding that they could beat the on-coming express, started to cross the rails. The engine near saw the danger and applied the brakes, but the engine caught the wagon with fatal results.

ALIENISTS GIVE THEIR EVIDENCE

Testify on Stand in Schmidt Case—Testimony Yesterday Showed that Prisoner's Mind is Abnormal.

New York, Dec. 22.—The procession of alienists began their march to the witness stand today at the trial of Hans Schmidt. After Dr. Smith Ely Jelliffe, of New York, had testified for the defence, court adjourned early to enable Schmidt's attorneys to construct a hypothetical question which will be put to Dr. Jelliffe tomorrow and to the other medical experts.

MUSKRATS ALRIGHT, BUT THEY COME HIGH
Manager of Fur Store Sentenced to Five Thousand Dollar Fine or Twenty Seven Years.

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 22.—Muskra and beaver skins at \$60 a piece come high for even Adelard Lefrance, manager for Revillon Freres at Mississauga, but when the fine amounts to \$5,000, or in default twenty-seven years in jail, it is a serious matter.

ADMIT FOREIGN POTATOES INTO STATES IF FOUND FREE FROM DISEASE

Order Sent Out by Secretary Houston Effective January 15. PRESENT EMBARGO HOLDS UNTIL THEN.

New Order Opens Market to Districts Which Can Show Tubers Free From Powdery Scab.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Secretary Houston today issued an order continuing the quarantine put temporarily into effect September 23 last, forbidding potato importations from the British Isles, Canada, and all Continental Europe. This action was modified, however, by a second order, under which the quarantine may be raised, under proper regulation and inspection, from foreign countries or districts which can show that they are free from potato wart and powdery scab, the two diseases which the Department of Agriculture aims to keep out of the country. The first order becomes effective December 24, but will admit until January 15 next potatoes covered by consular invoices issued on or before Wednesday next. The second becomes effective January 15 next.

Representatives of various countries affected appeared at hearings recently held at the department and protested against the quarantine. In the case of certain provinces in Canada, and certain countries and districts in Europe, the officers here believe the absolute prohibition can be lifted in time to allow the movement of the present year's crop, under regulation and inspection, which, under the secretary's order, is similar to that for nursery stock.

JUNIOR MEMBER OF BROKER'S FIRM MIXED UP IN MAIL FRAUD CASE

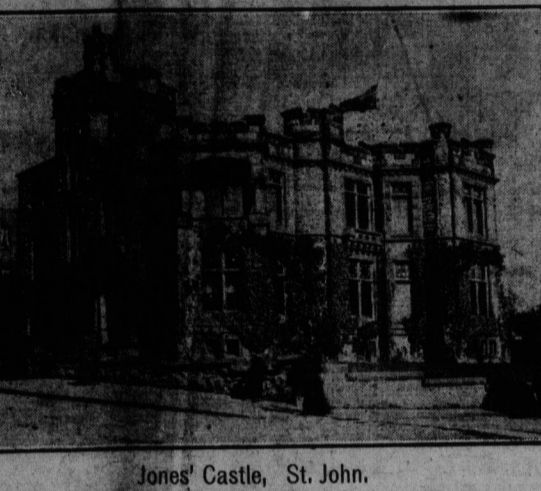
Implicated in Suit Against Officers of Sterling Debenture Company—Became Broker to Boom Concern.

New York, Dec. 22.—William E. Edwards, junior member of a Broadway brokerage firm, was arrested today in connection with the federal suit pending against officers of the Sterling Debenture Company and the Oxford Linen Mills Company, who are accused of using the mails in an alleged conspiracy to defraud investors of the Sterling company, which has mills at Brookfield, Mass. Edwards was once treasurer of the Sterling company. He furnished a bail of \$4,000 before the United States Judge Hunt and was released.

PURSE PRESENTED TO RETIRING PASTOR
Rev. Dr. MacOdrum Receives Gift from Moncton Congregation—Going to Pembroke, Ont., Next Month.

Moncton, Dec. 22.—Rev. D. MacOdrum, who recently accepted a call to the Central Presbyterian church, Pembroke, Ont., and who assumed his new pastorate early in January, was tonight presented by the congregation

Picturesque and Beautiful New Brunswick



Jones' Castle, St. John.

NEWS OF KING MENELIK'S DEATH IS ANNOUNCED

Reputed a Descendant of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon—Had Adventurous Career—Became Famous Through His War on Italy.

Addis Ababa, Abyssinia, Dec. 21.—It is officially announced here today that Emperor Menelik II. has died. Emperor Menelik II. had been reported dead on many occasions but this is the first time an official announcement has been published. Rumors of the emperor's death had been in circulation for several days in the European capitals, but were received with skepticism. Emperor Menelik was 69 years old, having been born at Ankober on July 19, 1844. He was a son of Haile Melchior, King of Shoa, and was said to be a direct descendant of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon. When his father died Menelik was only 12 years old. The throne of Abyssinia was seized by Kassal, Governor of Kone, who took Menelik captive and proclaimed himself Emperor but Menelik escaped and became ruler of the Kingdom of Shoa.

AGREEMENT SIGNED FOR QUEBEC WORK

Minister of Railways Signs Contract for Important Terminal Works—Tunnel Under the City.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Dec. 22.—Another new page in the history of Quebec was turned this afternoon when Hon. Frank Cochrane signed the agreements which will enable the start of work on the immense terminal undertakings in that city.

CARGO OF FOXES FOR PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Prince Albert, Sask., Dec. 22.—J. H. Reid, late of the Hudson's Bay Company at Isle La Crosse, about three hundred miles north of here, and one of the largest fox buyers in western Canada, left today for Prince Edward Island. He has a cargo of foxes with him valued at \$20,000.

EXPLOSION ON IMPERIAL TRAIN IN RUSSIA
Rostock, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Dec. 22.—An explosion occurred on the Russian court special train at the railroad station here just before the arrival of Dowager Empress Marie of Russia, who left Copenhagen today for St. Petersburg. Seven members of the train crew were injured.

HUERTA DECLARES BANK HOLIDAY UNTIL JANUARY 1

C.P.R. LNER IN TROUBLE IN MID-OCEAN

The Montague on Way from Vancouver to Hong Kong Had to Be Hove to in Heavy Storm.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 22.—With huge seas sweeping over her and threatening to wreck her deck fittings and cabins, the big Canadian Pacific steamer Montague, Captain Halley, had to be hove to in mid-Pacific on her present outward voyage from Vancouver to Hong Kong, according to word brought in by officers of the Empress of Asia, which arrived late yesterday.

While the Empress was reefing off 18 1/2 knots an hour, a wireless message was received from the Montague saying she was hove to in latitude 53 north and longitude 160 west, with a howling westerly gale raging and a terrible sea sweeping over her. The Montague ran into stormy weather as soon as she passed outside Cape Flattery. Southeast gales battered the ship, and the disagreeable conditions reached their height when the liner was in mid-Pacific. The ship was hove to for about twenty-four hours when the storm subsided somewhat and enabled her to proceed at a slow speed.

FINANCIAL STRINGENCY IS PASSED

Premier Borden Points Out at Travellers' Dinner—East and West May be United Without Sacrifice.

Montreal, Dec. 22.—Five cabinet ministers and one ex-cabinet minister besides other prominent guests honored the 38th annual banquet of the Dominion Commercial Travellers' Association by their presence tonight. The dining room at the Place Viger Hotel was crowded and the duties of President Geo. A. Mann were comparatively light, owing to the wealth of speaking talent available.

Both of the principal speakers of the evening, Premier Borden and Hon. W. T. White, made reference to the period of financial stringency through which the country has been passing, and both stated the definite opinion that the crisis was passed.

Sends Out Decree to Check Run on Mexico City Banks. ONLY ONE HOUSE TAKES ADVANTAGE

Directors of Bank of London and Mexico Look Into Situation—Twelve Million Pesos in Coin.

Mexico City, Dec. 22.—The Bank of London and Mexico closed its doors today. The bank was unable to secure currency with which to pay depositors and therefore was forced to suspend. Bankers here generally agree with the management of the bank of London, and Mexico in the opinion that the institution is solvent and the closing may be only a temporary one.

On the promulgation of this decree the Bank of London and Mexico opened its doors but refrained from paying deposits. With the exception of the Bank of London and Mexico, the Central Bank, none has yet taken advantage of the decree and business at the other institutions continues as usual. The directors of the Bank of London and Mexico began tonight a careful scrutiny of the affairs of that institution, and if their findings are endorsed by other bankers it is not improbable that assurances will be offered the directors which will enable a full resumption of the business of the institution. It is reasonably certain, however, that the bank will continue to avail itself of the decree of President Huerta issued today making the last ten days of the present year legal holidays.

CHANGES IN MILITIA ORDERS ANNOUNCED

Maj. Gen. Cotton's Term as Inspector General Extended Until the End of March, 1914.

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—Militia general orders just promulgated contain several important announcements. Regarding the headquarters staff are the following:

George Town Swept by Fire; Twenty Persons Killed
George Town, British Guiana, Dec. 22.—A large section of the business quarter of George Town, which is known also as Demerara, was destroyed by fire this morning. Twenty persons were killed and many injured. Scores were rendered homeless.