

PANAMA CANAL SHIPPING TOLLS

LONDON COMMENTS ON TAFT'S MESSAGE

Protest Against Proposed Preferential Treatment for American Ships

London, Dec. 25.—The Hay-Pauncefote treaty of 1902, between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the United States, is quoted today against President Taft's suggestion in his message to congress on December 21 that preferential treatment should be accorded to American ships passing through the Panama canal.

After reproducing clause 1 of article 2 of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, stating that the canal shall be open to vessels of all nations on terms of entire equality in respect of conditions or charges of traffic or otherwise, the Daily Mail Gazette comments on President Taft's proposal in part as follows:

"Was trust Sir Edward Grey, the British foreign secretary, will take steps to make British views perfectly known, and that even British Ambassador Bryce at Washington will for some show some vigilance on behalf of our commercial interests."

Clause 1 of article 2 of the treaty, referring to the Panama canal, which was proclaimed on February 22, 1902, is substantially as follows:

"The canal shall be free and open to vessels of commerce and of war of all nations observing these rules on terms of entire equality, so that there shall be no discrimination against any such nation or its citizens or subjects in respect of conditions or charges of traffic or otherwise. Such conditions or charges of traffic shall be just and equitable."

The rules referred to are substantially those embodied in convention of Constantinople, signed October 28, 1888, for the free navigation of the Suez canal.

CHINESE PEACE CONFERENCE

Shanghai, Dec. 23.—The Chinese peace conference will not resume its sessions for several days.

Tang Shao Yi, who came as the representative of Premier Yuan Shi Kai, is occupied in exchanging dispatches with Peking and receiving callers. He has not yet received Premier Yuan Shi Kai's final message. He says the armistice is now almost perfected.

Within the last few days the economic condition in the interior of the country has greatly improved.

STEAMER BURNED AT SEA

Gibraltar, Dec. 23.—Fifteen of the crew of the London tank steamer Chesapeake, which was burned in mid-ocean on December 10 on her voyage from New York to Tangier, were landed here yesterday from the German steamer Adam Sturm.

The second officer of the Chesapeake and 32 Chinese seamen are missing.

According to reports of the rescued men, the Chesapeake caught fire on December 6 and the crew were forced to abandon her and took to the boats, two of which were picked up by the Adam Sturm. Two other boats containing the remainder of the crew have not since been heard of. The chief officer and cook of the Chesapeake died on board the Adam Sturm from burns.

DISOBEYED ORDERS

Montreal, Dec. 23.—The health officers reported to the controllers to-day an amazing act on the part of the principals of French Catholic schools attended by 350 boys. There were five boys taken with scarlet fever. The rest were quarantined, and the order of the health officers was that they be kept there till December 29, in spite of their wanting to go home for Christmas.

The principals promised, but after the health officers left they dismissed the boys. The health officers say that if they had the slightest idea that there was danger of such a thing they would have circled the college with police. They have reported advising court action.

MAY CALL STRIKE

Kansas City, Dec. 23.—A general strike of the carmen employed by the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad Company probably will be called soon, according to a statement made by J. A. Franklin, international president of the boilermakers' union, yesterday.

The failure of the road and the union to settle their differences at the conference in St. Louis last Monday was given as the cause.

The road refused the demand of the unions that the carmen's union be recognized.

WORK TO BEGIN ON HUDSON BAY LINE

STATEMENT MADE BY MINISTER OF INTERIOR

Hon. R. Rogers Says It is to Be Government-Owned and Operated

Winnipeg, Dec. 23.—Work on the construction of the line of railway to the Hudson Bay is to be proceeded with at once. This information was made public to-day by Hon. Robert Rogers, minister of the interior, following an interview with J. D. McArthur, railway contractor, who will have charge of the work, the tender for which was awarded to his firm by the late Dominion government.

It is to be government-owned and government-operated line and a line of ships, owned by the Dominion government, may operate between Hudson Bay and Europe.

RUSSIA WILL PUNISH PERSIANS

FIGHTING REPORTED IN SEVERAL CITIES

Cossacks Guard Government Buildings at Tabriz—Settlement Delayed

London, Dec. 23.—Fifty Persians were killed during the fighting between Russian troops and the Persians in Tabriz, according to official telegrams received Teheran.

The Russians occupied all of the Persian offices as well as the telegraph station. They bombarded the governor's place and demolished many private buildings with their artillery.

Several Persian officials also were killed during the fighting at Resht.

The bloodshed which occurred in Persia threatens to complicate the final settlement of the Russo-Persian difficulty, as it is likely to delay the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Persian territory.

According to a dispatch from St. Petersburg to-day, the Russian government does not intend to attempt to adjust the matter by making a protest to the Persian government, but will undertake the punishment of those who, it alleges, were responsible for the attacks on the Russian troops.

Sharp Fighting.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 23.—A dispatch received here from Tabriz Persia, says that sharp fighting again occurred to-day near Lake Urmia. A detachment of Russian Cossacks is protecting the government buildings at Tabriz and the road leading to the town.

There have been a few casualties among the guard defending the Russian consulate at Tabriz during the recent fighting.

Yesterday's fighting between Russians and Persians lasted in the streets of the city throughout the day. The Russian consul general has sent to headquarters a request for reinforcements in view of the danger to Russian subjects and Russian property in the city.

The Russian Cossacks at Resht drove the Persians out of their position after considerable fighting. It was found that the Persians were armed with Russian rifles.

According to dispatches received here from Teheran says that W. Morgan Shuster, treasurer general of Persia, has been notified of his dismissal and that the Persian government has instructed the local authorities to cease hostilities and enter into negotiations with the Russian consul to restore normal conditions.

CABINET MEETINGS

Majority of Ministers Will Remain at Ottawa During the Holidays

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—The majority of the cabinet ministers will not take any Christmas holidays at all but will remain in the city to attend council meetings. The ministers will foregather for the dispatch of public business on every day during the holiday, but Christmas and New Year, those who will be in the city for the holiday will include Hon. Robt. Rogers and Hon. W. J. Roche, who have gone West, Hon. J. D. Hazen, who will go to St. John, Hon. Frank Cochrane, who will spend Christmas in Toronto, and Hon. Martin Burrell who left last night for St. Catharines.

TURKEY'S WAR EXPENSES

Constantinople, Dec. 23.—An extraordinary credit of \$2,500,000 was asked for to-day in the chamber of deputies by the minister of war in order to meet the expenses incurred by the continuance of warlike operations against the invading Italian army in Tripoli.

ITALIANS SEIZE BRITISH STEAMER

PROTEST AGAINST ACTION OF CRUISER

Italian Troops Reported to Have Been Defeated in Two Engagements

London, Dec. 23.—The Khedival Mail Steamship & Dock Graving Company, owners of the British steamer Manzaleh, which was seized yesterday in the Red Sea by the Italian cruiser Puglia, made representations to-day at the foreign office in regard to the capture of the vessel by the Italian warship. The captain of the steamer has cabled to his company that, besides \$150,000 on hand in course of transit from one bank to another, the Italians also took possession of a large quantity of Turkish parcels and goods. The foreign office will not take any action in the matter until it has received an official report from the British consul at Hodeida, who is investigating.

The Morning Post's correspondent with the Turks at Adzizia asserts that the Turks and Arabs were victorious in an engagement at Homs on December 15, and drove out the Italians and reoccupied Zanburon on December 17. He reports the Italians as having lost heavily in these engagements.

The London Daily Mail's Constantinople correspondent says the Porte again has announced its determination to maintain its sovereign rights in Tripoli.

A detail comes from Rome of a report that there are Italian warships at Durazzo, on the Albanian coast.

Steamer Released.

Alexandria, Egypt, Dec. 23.—The British steamer Manzaleh was only delayed temporarily by the Italian cruiser Puglia. After taking possession of the \$150,000 in cash and the Turkish parcels and goods on board, the Italian warship allowed the Manzaleh to proceed on her voyage.

GIRL BURNED TO DEATH

Prosser, Sask., Dec. 23.—Fire destroyed the residence of Samuel Hammler, the result of an educational campaign carried on last year, "proving" he added.

In Vancouver, B. C., the district has been moved out, but for financial reasons, the situation was wanted for wholesale houses.

ACTION FOLLOWS CEMENT MERGER

Bank of Montreal Brings Suit Against Western Cement and Coal Company

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—A writ has been issued by the Bank of Montreal against the Western Cement and Coal Company. The defendants quoted are Sir Sanford Fleming, Joseph Samuels Irvin, Sanford Hall Fleming, Hugh Fleming, Anglo-Canadian Finance Company, Ltd., and William E. Paul.

The claim is mostly for promissory notes and interest that has accrued from the date of issue to the present time. The claim made against Sir Sanford Fleming is for \$31,109.69, with interest at 5 per cent; against J. S. Irvin, for the sum of \$20,739.73; against Sanford H. Fleming, for \$10,269.88, with interest at the rate of 5 per cent; against the Anglo-Finance Company, amount claimed was \$30,739.73, also with interest, and there was a further claim against William Ekshaw for \$10,269.86, with interest. The bank also claims \$50 for costs. The case arises out of the merger of various cement companies. It was in this connection that Sir Sanford Fleming made his charges against Sir Max Aitkin and based his demands for a parliamentary investigation.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN THE WEST

REV. J. W. AIKENS TELLS OF HIS RECENT TOUR

Declares Many Undesirables Are Coming in From the United States

Toronto, Dec. 22.—The problems of British Columbia are a good deal more serious than we have them here, and we should think sympathetically and fairly of their conditions when disposed to judge them," said Rev. J. W. Aikens, associate secretary of the Methodist department of Temperance and Moral Reform, in talking with a Times correspondent yesterday with reference to his recent tour of the west.

Speaking of the question of temperance, for instance, Mr. Aikens remarked that he was informed that there were applications from more than four hundred bartenders for licenses, though there was only room for two hundred, and he was told that the majority of these had been driven out of local option or prohibition territory in the United States. "This was true also of the race-track gamblers; and most of the horses run on the race-track of the Vancouver association, he said, came from the United States.

The same could be said of the social evil. It was pretty hard for the authorities to get rid of these people, who carried on or engaged in their business, as they would be moved out of one city to another, and, in fact, it was believed that a regular circle of the coast cities and middle tier of cities was operated in this way, the women being moved around from place to place, so that it was almost impossible to keep a watch upon them.

"Western Canada is coming," said Mr. Aikens, "and the dumping ground for undesirables from the United States."

In Victoria, however, he said, they have cleaned out the red light district, the result of an educational campaign carried on last year, "proving" he added.

In Vancouver, B. C., the district has been moved out, but for financial reasons, the situation was wanted for wholesale houses.

"It is hardly fair," said he, "to compare the west of Canada with the east of Canada or better compared, the west of Canada with the Western States at the same stage of development. That is a better comparison, and when you make it, things are very encouraging there."

One very fine feature which Mr. Aikens found in the ministerial association in Vancouver, and one which could with advantage be duplicated in many other cities in Canada, but which he saw nowhere else, was the organization of the associations to take cognizance of every need of the city's life, moral, physical, civic, religious; the members were divided into departments, corresponding to these activities, each supposed to study its special problems, such as sanitation, immigration, etc., and to report to the whole body.

MAYOR GEARY RE-ELECTED

Returned by Acclamation at Toronto Nominations for Board of Control

Toronto, Dec. 23.—Mayor Geary is Toronto's chief magistrate for a third term. The nomination took place in the city hall yesterday and as the expected announcement of Robert H. Noble, an opponent, did not materialize, Mayor Geary was declared elected by acclamation.

The following were nominated for board of controllers: H. C. Heckman, journalist; Thomas L. Church, barrister; J. O. McCarthy, insurance manager; F. S. Spence, journalist; George R. Sweeney, barrister; J. O. O'Donoghue, barrister; J. J. Ward, merchant; Thomas Foster, gentleman.

SHOT BY SOME PERSON UNKNOWN

INVESTIGATION INTO SURVEYORS' DEATH

Young Man Shot Through the Back—Further Inquiries to Be Made

Mistatin, Sask., Dec. 23.—That Kenney Kingston was killed on Thursday, December 14th, by a wound from a bullet fired by some one unknown," was the verdict rendered late last night by the coroner's jury.

The post mortem examination showed that deceased had been shot in the back, the bullet passing through his body, and tearing the lungs badly, there being no sign of a struggle where the body was found that would indicate that death was instantaneous, and that deceased was shot at the spot where the body was found. This, however, is not generally believed here, there being a suspicion that the body may have been placed on the trail by other parties.

The two trappers who found the body were the only men suspected of having possibly shot Kingston in mistake for a deer, but after being subjected to a most severe examination by the police and afterwards by the coroner and jury it has been impossible to shake their testimony or to find any evidence against them.

The inquiry by no means ends this case. The authorities at Ottawa have taken up the matter and intend to spare no pains or effort to clear up the mystery. The police are still holding all the trappers that were in the woods and also all the men of survey parties and to-day searched Logan, with a detective and constable together with two experienced woodmen will go north, taking supplies, etc., to make a prolonged investigation, the intention being to look up every detail and cover all the country for miles around in the hope of obtaining some clue.

Kingston's body is being taken to Ottawa for interment. He belonged to a well known family here and was a well-to-do and successful trapper.

PROPOSED INCREASE ON BUSINESS PHONES

Vancouver City Council Wants Explanation From B. C. Telephone Company

Vancouver, Dec. 23.—The matter of the proposed increase in the rates of the B. C. Telephone Company in regard to business telephones was brought up at the meeting of the finance committee yesterday afternoon.

Ald. Enright, who had been one of the members of the arbitration board on the increase of wages to the men stated that it was supposed to be the intention of the company to raise their rates next March owing to the increased wages arranged for. Ald. Enright said he took it that the amount of wages in question was so small that it practically only affected about 500 men in the province and did not warrant the increase of 31 a month, which had been proposed. The rates were already sufficiently high. The company should be asked to submit their books so that it might be ascertained whether the increased rates were justified. He proposed that the company be asked whether they intend to make the suggested increase, that they should also state the number of business telephones in the city; also how many men there were to whom the wage increase applied. The motion carried.

MANY MINERS MAY HAVE PERISHED

WORKINGS OF ENGLISH COLLIERY FLOODED

Two Hundred Men Were at Work When Inrush of the Water Occurred

Wigan, Eng., Dec. 23.—This morning a sudden inrush of water flooded today by a sudden inrush of water. Two hundred miners were below in the workings. It is feared there have been many fatalities.

Six Miners Killed.

Dortmund, Germany, Dec. 23.—Six miners were killed by fire-damp explosions, which occurred last evening in one of the pits of the Teutoburgia colliery near here.

TWO MEN SLAIN IN NELSON SALOON

ANOTHER MAN MAY DIE FROM WOUNDS

Victims of Unknown Negro Who Demanded Money—Murderer Escapes

Nelson, Dec. 23.—Jack Gould and Caleb A. Barton are dead and Albert Bolton is probably dying as a result of shooting by an unknown negro, who entered the bar of the Manhattan saloon at 4 o'clock this morning and demanded \$20.

Bolton is unconscious and has been unable to give any coherent account of the tragedy. The police are scouring the city for the murderer, and are holding a white man, named Dolla Orignon, who was found on the premises when the police arrived, and who they believe witnessed the tragedy. An empty revolver was found by the police.

Albert Bolton, until recently, was a partner in the saloon, but nothing is known of the other man.

MAY ACCEPT NEW POST

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—Hon. F. Cochrane, minister of railways, to-day has nothing to say as to the report that General Superintendent Gutelius is to leave the service of the Canadian Pacific to enter the service of the government with general charge of the department of railways and canals.

STRIKE MAY SPREAD

Lockout of 160,000 Lancashire Mill Operatives Likely to Take Place Next Week

Manchester, Eng., Dec. 23.—The executive committee of the weavers' trade union has decided to support the strike of the mill operatives at Accrington against the employment of non-union workers, which occurred December 20. There is little prospect, therefore, of avoiding the lockout of 160,000 operatives which is threatened by the Lancashire mill owners, and is to begin on December 27.

DEADMAN'S ISLAND TANGLE

Vancouver, Dec. 23.—That the Dominion government will take steps to get Deadman's Island back for the citizens of Vancouver, was the statement made yesterday by George H. Cowan, formerly M. P. for Vancouver, who has just returned from Ottawa. It was intimated that the government had appointed Mr. Cowan to represent the crown in any decision that may be arrived at on the coast.

B. C. NAVAL CADETS

W. J. Beech, Mount Tolmie, and R. W. Wood, Duncan, Pass Examination.

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—Two British Columbia boys were successful in passing the open competitive examination for naval cadets held on November 15. They are W. J. Beech, Mount Tolmie, B. C., and R. W. Wood, of Duncan, B. C. Eleven candidates succeeded in passing examinations.

REVOLUTIONISTS IN ANGRY MOOD

BELIEVE CONFERENCE RUSE BY PREMIER

Imperial Troops Reinforced—It is Feared Armistice May Be Broken

Nanking, Dec. 23.—The present temper of the revolutionary troops gives ground for the fear that the armistice now existing may be broken and that a serious encounter may occur in the territory to the north of Fukow.

Within the last two weeks Chang Hsun, who was formerly in command of the imperial government troops at Nanking and who was incorrectly reported to have been killed, has received heavy reinforcements, both of men and guns. With these he has advanced south as far as Su Chow An, retaking many towns.

In the meantime the revolutionary forces have advanced northward to T'ing-Wai-Kwan with strong supporting columns, occupying the best positions.

Chang Hsun has commandeered the entire northern section of the T'ien T'ai-Pukow railway, including rolling stock.

The rebel forces on the other hand hold the southern section. Chang Hsun's force is 10,000 strong, while the revolutionaries number 15,000. A distance of less than 100 miles separates them. Chang Hsun declares that he will retake Nanking, while the southern, or revolutionary forces, are keen to advance on Peking.

Revolutionaries, both officers and men, are convinced the conference at Shanghai is merely a ruse to afford Chang Hsun the time to concentrate his reinforcements and to enable the imperial forces to strengthen their positions.

Predict Failure.

Peking, Dec. 23.—In government circles here there seems to be little doubt that the conference at Shanghai between representatives of the imperial government and the revolutionaries will prove a failure. The belief prevails that the revolutionaries are preparing to advance north by way of Pukow, which is in their possession.

Premier Yuan Shi Kai continues to exchange frequent telegrams with Tang Shao Yi, his representative at Shanghai. It is understood that Yuan Shi Kai desires to have all the differences settled in advance of the formal sittings of the peace conference, so that the sole business of the delegates will be to sanction the decision already reached.

Government officials here insist that the throne will be retained, but there is a difference of opinion as to what form the monarchy will take.

Yuan Shi Kai has been endeavoring to propagate the view that foreign interference would be detrimental to both parties; evidently figuring that his action will bear weight during the negotiations at Shanghai.

Mediation Proposals.

London, Dec. 23.—Considerable curiosity has been aroused in diplomatic circles here regarding the reasons for the proposal of Great Britain and Japan to undertake a dual mediation in China after the powers, including the United States, had decided to present an identical note to the conference now meeting at Shanghai.

There was a tendency to believe that the Japanese government had made the proposal, and that Japan was anxious to interfere. It turns out, however, that the proposal really came from the British government, acting on the belief that the British consul at Hankow, who had induced the committee to agree to an armistice, might again succeed as a mediator in the larger question. It is understood that the state department at Washington is making inquiries both in Japan and Great Britain in regard to the proposed British-Japanese mediation.

The reiterated report that the British-Japanese mediation contemplated insistence in maintenance of the non-archival government is officially denied. It was said at the foreign office that the efforts of the British government in conjunction with the other powers were directed to assisting China to secure an efficient form of government, based on popular approval.

Not Elected President.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 23.—The Chinese National Association received a telegram to-day stating that the report announcing the election of Dr. Sun Yat Sen as president of the revolutionary assembly at Nanking was premature.

The message, which was in answer to a query sent from here, said that test vote was taken informally among the delegates showing that Dr. Sun was strongly favored.

SCOTTISH BYE-ELECTION

Glasgow, Dec. 23.—At the bye-election held yesterday for the seat in the House of Commons for the Govan division of Lanarkshire, D. U. Holmes, Liberal, was elected by a majority of 988. The seat was formerly held by William Hunter, Liberal, who has been raised to the position of judge of the Court of Sessions. Mr. Hunter's majority last year was over 9,000.

THIS PAPER will be discontinued on December 31st, 1911, to all subscribers whose subscriptions on that date are unpaid in advance. And thereafter the rule of "payment in advance" will be rigidly adhered to. Have you paid?