STRONG FOR THE EASTERN ROUTE

The temper of the people of St. John, with regard to the proposal to change the route of the Valley railway and bring the road down the western bank of St. John river to connect with the C. P. R. at Westfield, was shown in no uncertain manner at the public meeting held in the board of trade rooms Friday evening.

Vigorous denunciation of the western route, supported by a most convincing array of facts and figures, marked the meeting, and the vigorous applause which followed the attacks on the proposed change showed clearly how strong was the sentiment of the gathering in opposition to the proposals.

The suggestion that the opposition is being promoted for political purposes was full exploded when one Conservative after another joined in the attack, only one Liberal being included in the list of the speakers who appealed for support for the eastern route. There was no evidence or indication of politics in the demand for the eastern route; it was rather the frank expression of opinion of independent citizens who had given the matter careful consideration and who were united in their belief that there is imminent danger that a grave injustice may be done to the city and province.

The speakers included W. Frank Hatheway, F. W. Daniel, W. E. Foster, Percy W. Thomson, Allan H. Wetmore, Gershon S. Mayes, Robert G. Murray and Mayor Frink.

As a result of the discussion, which continued for three hours, Mr. Hatheway's amendment to the amendment, calling upon the city to employ an expert engineer to make an independent survey and requesting the government to delay action until such a report could be presented, was voted down.

Mayor Frink moved that the meeting adjourned until nert week and that efforts be made to secure the reports of Engineers Monsarrat and Maxwell for this meeting and that a member of the government be asked to attend to answer the questions of the citizens. This motion was seconded by Miles E. Agar and was adopted.

The meeting was larger and more representative than that of Tuesday evening. Practically every man who had been there on Tuesday was in his seat again and there were many others as well. In fact, the room proved too small for the number who wished to attend and many were turned away. It is probable that a larger hall will be required for the next meeting.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Elias Thorne.

Friday, March 31.

The death occurred yesterday at her residence, 5 Frederick street, of Mrs. Elias Thorne. She had been ill but a few days, being stricken with pneumonia which proved fatal. She was in her forty-ninth year, and is survived by her husband one daughter, Mrs. Joseph Wood of this city, and four sons—Charles, Walter, Albert and Harold, all of this city. Before her marriage she was Miss Adeline Maxim, and is one of the best known residents of the city. The funeral services will be held at her late residence tonight at 7.30 o'clock, and the body shipped to Cody's Station tomorrow morning, where interment will be made.

Peter Reid.

The death of Peter Reid occurred at his home in Salt Springs on the 23rd inst., after a brief illness of only two weeks. He was 70 years of age, and is survived by his wife, one son, Fred, at home, and three daughters—Mrs. David J. Floyd, of Clover Hill; Misses Ada and Tillie, at home. Deceased was known for his beautiful Christian character, and he will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. He was an elder of the Presbyterian church for many years. The funeral took place on Sunday and the service was conducted by Rev. R. H. Stavert, of Norton.

Mrs. A. P. McAllister.

Friday, March 31.

Many will learn with regret of the death of Mrs. A. P. McAllister, of 49 Adelaide street, which occurred yesterday morning after a short illness of pneumonia. She was the daughter of the late James Hunter. Besides her husband she leaves three sons, Fred S., Charles C., and George W., all of this city, one daughter, Mrs. W. A. Scott, three brothers, C. A. Hunter, of Dorchester (Mass.); and John and Robert, of Gagetown.

Mrs. Mercy Kaye.

Friday, March 31.

Mrs. Mercy Kaye passed away at an early hour yesterday morning at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. E. March, 95 Coburg street, after a lingering illness. Besides Mrs. March, Mrs. Kaye is survived by another daughter, Mrs. F. Rowan, of Brooklyn (N. Y.), and one son, William Kaye, of Moncton. The funeral service will be held at 2.30 o'clock on Friday afternoon at the home of her daughter, Coburg street.

Edward Johnson.

Chatham, March 30—The death took place at 3 o'clock this morning of Edward Johnson, one of the best known business men here, aged 65 years. He had been ill for over four months with heart trouble, and leaves one daughter, Mrs. H. M. L. Russell, of Loggieville, and three brothers, John of Chatham; Campbell, of St. John, and Andrew of DesMoines. The deceased was a son of the Hon. John M. Johnson, one of the fathers of Confederation and a great son of the Miramichi, who after filling successively the offices of postmaster general, speaker, solicitor general and attorney general of New Brunswick, went to Ottawa in 1868 as one of those in favor of Confederation, but died a year later.

Mr. Johnson was educated in Chatham and was an attendant at Rev. William Neales' school, which was situated on the present chapel road, but the building has long since gone. From school he entered the local post office under the late Thomas Vondy, and from there went into the Muirhead office. Finally he started in business for himself in the stationery line and has been the representative of the Canadian and American express companies here for years. The funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon.

Mrs. Julia Temple.

Yarmouth, N. S., March 30—Word received here last night tells of the death of Mrs. Julia Temple, wife of Rev. W. H. G. Temple, D.D., in Seattle. She was the eldest daughter of the late Thomas B. Dane, of Yarmouth, and was 67 years old. Like all the Dane family, she was very musical and took a prominent part as a young woman in musical affairs. Besides her husband, she leaves one daughter, Mrs. William P. Allen, and one son, W. D. Temple, in Seattle, and three sisters, Mrs. T. B. Flint, of Ottawa; Mrs. L. E. Embree, of Toronto, and Mrs. Arthur Rogers, of Yarmouth.

Mrs. Jane McLeod Chapman.

Smith's Falls, Ont., March 30—Mrs. Jane McLeod Chapman, declared to be the oldest woman in all Canada, is dead here. She was 116 years old.

Born in County Armagh, Ireland, Mrs. Chapman, then Miss McLeod, came to Canada in 1810, and settled near Kingston. Not until she reached the age of 75 did the Irish maid succumb to cupid. Then she married Thomas Chapman, a business man of Smith's Falls, who had sought her hand for years.

Since passing the century mark, Mrs. Chapman had shown but slightly the effect of her years. She continued to read without the aid of glasses and took regular exercises every day. One of her favorite feats was to climb up into a hay mow, which she accomplished readily up to within a few weeks of her death. Her husband survives. He is 85 years old.

Robert Peacock.

The death occurred on Wednesday of a life long citizen of St. Andrews, Robert Peacock, who lacked a few days of being eighty-five years of age. He leaves to mourn his loss, his widow, two sons, Alexander, of Deleware City; John, of St. Andrews, and two daughters, Mrs. Harding, of Dorchester (Mass.), and Mrs. McFarlane, of Bayside. The funeral, which was largely attended, took place on Friday afternoon from his late residence, Rev. William Fraser, Presbyterian minister, officiating.

Clarence Spooner.

The death of Clarence Spooner, of Rhode Island, occurred on March 29 in the Providence Hospital after a short illness.

Mr. Spooner was a well known newspaper man throughout the province, having spent all his life in that work. After being engaged in newspaper work in Boston he came to Grand Manan, where he started the Island Press, then going to Sussex he started the Sussex Record, then to Hampton, where he was founder of the Kings County News. Leaving there he went to Providence, where he had owned and edited the Labor Magazine and also the Atlantic Homestead. He leaves besides his wife, who was Miss Laura White, daughter of the late W. H. White, of Sussex, three daughters, Alice, Dorothy and Doris, all of whom reside at Hampton.

His body was brought here on the Boston train en route to Hampton for burial.

Mrs. Marie Theriault.

Mrs. Marie Theriault, wife of Mr. Jarvais Theriault, Westbrook (Me.), died on Saturday, aged about 56 years. She was a native of Grand Anse, Gloucester county, and leaves also three daughters and two sons, Mrs. George M. Flood, St. John; Mrs. Frank George and Mrs. Arthur Fournier, Westbrook; Richard, in Toledo (O.), and Alphonsus, in Seattle (Wash.) The interment took place on Tuesday. Mr. Flood returned home on Wednesday night. His wife will likely stay at her old home a week or two longer.

Mrs. Mary A. Dunlap.

Amherst, N. S., March 30—Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Mary A. Dunlap, of Port Huron (Mich.), a former resident of this town. Mrs. Dunlap was in the eighty-first year of her age, and was well known in Amherst where she passed the greater part of her life. Four sisters survive, Mrs. Sarah Embree, Mrs. Margaret Copp, Mrs. Lavinia Baird, of this town, and Mrs. Caroline Brownell, of Moncton.

Charles Crammond.

Newcastle, March 30—The funeral of the late Charles Crammond, sr., was held yesterday afternoon. Rev. S. J. Macarthur conducted services at the house, and at the grave the members of No. 17, A. F. & A. M. took charge. There was a very large attendance. Interment was in St. James' cemetery. The pall-bearers were Keith Anderson, John H. Lindon, Judge J. R. Lawlor, William Wright, William Touchie and James Matheson. Among several beautiful floral tributes was a magnificent square and compass from brother Masons.

Mrs. Marguret Leake.

Sussex, March 30—Mrs. Marguret J. Leake died last evening at 10 o'clock at the home of her daughter, Mrs. McInerney, aged 80 years. She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Susan McInerney, and three sons, William, section foreman of the I. C. R., Apohaqui; Henry P., of Boston, and John Wesley, of Stewiacke (N. S.) The funeral will take place Saturday afternoon. Interment will be at the town cemetery, Rev. Mr. Shewen officiating.

Howard W. Shaw.

Fredericton, April 2—A telegram received from New York this morning by LeBaron R. Bull announced the death of his brother-in-law, Howard W. Shaw, formerly a well-kown resident of Hawkshaw, York county. No particulars were given other than the statement that he had passed away suddenly. Shaw was a native of Montreal and for some years was prominent in connection with the leather trade of Canada. He operated a large tannery at Hawkshaw for seventeen years, closing it down about eight years ago when the supply of hemlock bark gave out. He then removed to Long Island (N. Y.), where he had large interests in real estate. He was in Germany with his family when the war broke out and had difficulty in getting out of the country. He arrived in New York four months ago from England and was preparing to remove to Toronto with his family. He was a large stockholder in the Anglo-Canadian Leather Company with which his father and brother are connected. He is survived by a widow, formerly Miss Josephine Bull of Woodstock, neice of Nelson W. Brown of Southampton, one daughter, Irma, and one son Ralph who is in France with the Canadian expeditionary force. LeBaron Bull is to go to New York to attend the funeral.

Mrs. Hannah Short.

St. Stephen, March 30—Mrs. Hannah Short, widow of the late Charles Short, shipbuilder, passed away at her home, Prince William street, at an early hour this morning. Mrs. Short had been in failing health for several years. She was 88 years of age and leaves three sons, George, employed in Waterson's drug store; Fred, a clerk in the post office, and Frank, an engineer on the Maine Central, and three daughters, Mary, Eleanor and Annie, at home. The funeral will be at 9 o'clock Saturday morning at the Church of Holy Rosary with requiem mass conducted by Rev. Father Offaherty.

Mrs. Hartley Colvert.

Saturday, April 1.

The death of Mrs. Mary Jane Colvert, wife of Hartley Colvert, occurred early yesterday morning at her home, 227 Brussels street, after a long illness. She was a native of Halifax, but had lived in St. John for the greater part of her life. Besides her husband, Mrs. Colvert is survived by four sons, William Griffin, of St. John; Thomas Griffin, of Halifax; Everett Griffin, of Rumford (Me.), and George, of Montreal, and four daughters, Mrs. S. Summerscales and Mrs. Thurlew, of Pawtucket (R. I.); Mrs. A. Gould, of New Jersey, and Miss Pearl at home.

Mrs. William Shaw.

The death of Isabel, wife of William Shaw, occurred at her residence, 189 Waterloo street, Friday afternoon.

The deceased had been ill with paralysis for two years. Besides her husband she leaves five boys—Harrison B., of Portland, Oregon; Lieutenant Leonard D., of Montreal; Edwin E., of Sydney (C. B.); William A. and Allen B., of this city; two daughters—Mrs. R. E. Crawford, of this city, and Elinor W., at home.

Benjamin Mountain.

Newcastle, March 31—The death of Benjamin Mountain, of Blackville, took place late Wednesday night, of gangrene. He was seventy-five years of age and had lived in Blackville all his life. He was unmarried, and had been ill a long time. His funeral was held today, interment in the Presbyterian cemetery. Deceased's surviving brothers and sisters are: George and Nathaniel Mountain, of Blackville; Mrs. Grace Brown, of Newcastle; Mrs. Frank Glidden, of Woodstock, and Mrs. Charlotte McLaggan, of Blackville.

Elliott Willard.

Harcourt, March 31—Mrs. Elliott Willard received a telegram on Thursday announcing the death of her husband at Keene (N. H.) on Thursday morning. Mrs. Willard had been nursing her husband for the past year, since his leaving the sanitarium in Rutland (Vt.), and came here a short time ago with the intention of returning to Keene with her children, so that news of the sudden death of her husband came as a great shock to her and her many friends. Mr. Willard was a native of Keene, but had visited here several times, and had made many friends. Mrs. Willard and little son, Jack, left on Thursday noon to attend the funeral.

Mrs. William Beers.

Harcourt, March 31—After a lingering illness of tuberculosis, the death of Mrs. William Beers occurred last Tuesday at the age of 38 years. The deceased is survived by her husband, five small children, her father, Matthew Shirley; four brothers and two sisters.

The funeral was held on Thursday afternoon from her late home, where service was conducted by Rev. A. D. MacLeod. Interment was made in the Church of England cemetery.

James Rodden.

Monday, April 3.

The death of James Rodden occurred last night at his residence, 299 Chesley street. Mr. Rodden was an employe of Miller's mill on the Strait Shore and was well and favorably known by a large circle of friends. He was a son of the late James and Ann Rodden and is survived by two sisters, Miss Mary Rodden and Mrs. Patrick Shea.

Mrs. Catherine McAnulty.

Many will learn with regret of the death of Mrs. Catherine McAnulty, of 162 Rockland road, wife of Patrick McAnulty. She leaves two sons, James, of this city, and Robert of the 26th battalion now overseas and two daughters, Mrs. Thomas Mitchell, and Mrs. Daniel Logue, both of this city.

Donald Fraser.

Fredericton, April 1.—Donald Fraser, one of New Brunswick's greatest captains of industry, passed away at his home here at noon today after less than a week's illness of heart trouble. He was taken sick while attending St. Paul's church service on last Sunday night and physicians found his condition very serious. Dr. Hamilton of Montreal, was in consultation on last Tuesday, but could hold out no hope. Yesterday an improvement was noted, but it was only temporary. Announcement of his death was heard with unusual regret.

Mr. Fraser was a native of Aberdeen, Scotland, and came to this country in 1873 with a large perty of immigrants who settled on the Tobique. He followed farming for a short time but, having had some experience at lumbering, it was not long before he became engaged in that kind of work. He purchased a saw mill at River Duchute, Victoria county, and operated it for some years with great success. It was here he laid the foundation of what is now believed to be the largest lumbering and milling business in eastern Canada.

His two sons, on coming of age, joined their father in the business under the name of Donald Fraser and Sons. Business rapidly expanded and is now carried on by three stock companies—Donald Fraser & Sons, the Fraser Lumber Company, and Fraser, Limited. They own and operate mills at Cabano, P.Q., Baker Brook, Edmundston, Plaster Rock and this city, carrying on a business which runs into millions of dollars annually. Only recently the concern acquired the Lynch property on the Miramichi. They bought the Hale and Murchie property here three years ago. Mr. Fraser made frequent visits to the old land. A few years ago he made a pleasure trip to Australia and New Zealand. He was a man of most generous disposition and contributed liberally to benevolent objects and also to Patriotic and Belgian funds. He was seventy-four years of age and is survived by two sons, Archibald of this city and Donald of Plaster Rock. Mrs. Fraser died some years ago. Two brothers reside in the Antipodes.

The funeral of the late Mr. Fraser will take place Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Rev. Dr. W. H. Smith of St. Paul's Presbyterian church will conduct the service at the home, Woodstock road. Interment will be made in the Rural cemetery. Rev. John McP. Scott, of Toronto, a lifelong friend of the late Mr. Fraser will attend the service and probably will take part.

W. H. Warn.

The death of William H. Warn, which occurred at his residence, 181 Paradise Row late Saturday night, brings to a close a barber business which has been in continuous existence for probably the past seventy years.

Mr. Warn was in his 68th year and succeeded his father in the business at the same stand in Germain street where he was so well known and where he will be missed by his many patrons for a life time. Mr. Warn had been ill but a short time.

A particularly sad feature in connection with Mr. Warn's death, is the fact that his wife is also in a critical condition in another room in the house and is totally unaware of the death of her life partner.

Mr. Warn is survived by his wife and two daughters. The daughters are Miss Bertha, at home, and Mrs. William Miles, of Fair Vale. Two brothers and two sisters also survive. The brothers are Frederic, of Lynn (Mass.), and Robert, of Bangor (Me.) The sisters are Mrs. T. H. Miles, of Alston (Mass.), and Mrs. J. R. Hopkins, of the city. Mrs. Silas Hoyt, as sister of Mrs. Warn, is also ill.

Frank Limerick.

Fredericton, April 2—Frank Limerick, youngest son of ex-Alderman and Mrs. Joshua Limerick, formerly of Fredericton passed away in Boston this morning from appendicitis. Police Magistrate Limerick of this city, a brother of the deceased, is now in Boston.

WEDDINGS

Speedy-McPherson.

On Wednesday afternoon in St. Columba Presbyterian church, Fairville, Rev. W. McN. Townshend united in Marriage Norman J. Speedy of the N. B. Telephone staff and and Margaret McPherson, daughter of David McPherson. Immediately following the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Speedy drove to the home of Silas Chessman, Lancaster Heights, where a dainty repast was served. Mr. and Mrs. Speedy went out on the Montreal train and will spend a honeymoon in St. Stephen, the groom's former home. It is understood that Mr. Speedy will soon enlist in the signalling corps where his experience in telephone work should prove valuable.

Munro-Vernon.

A quiet military wedding took place at Sackville Thursday, March 30, when Miss Bessie, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Vernon, of Minudie, (N. S.), was united in marriage to Captain John A. Munro, medical officer of the 185th battalion, C. E. F., Cape Bretin Highlanders. The Rev. Dr. Wiggins performed the ceremony, which took place at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. R. H. Sutherland, Bridge street, only the members of the family being present.

The bride's gown was old rose satin with ninon, and going away she wore a pretty sealskin coat and white Parisian hat. Captain and Mrs. Munro left by the C. P. R. en route to Sydney and Broughton, where they will reside during the training of the 185th battalion.

$20,000 Fire At Torryburn

Monday, April 3.

The Ettor place, a road house about five miles from the city, was totally destroyed by fire on Saturday night, together with the adjoining barns and shed, causing a loss of about $20,000. The house burned to the ground inside of an hour while, in the beginning, it was only a window curtain afire, caused by the upsetting of a lamp. Insurance, it is stated, is in the vicinity of $6,000, carried with Wm. Thomson & Co.

The four-story residence was a comparatively recent structure, and it is stated that only a short while ago an offer of $18,000 for it was rejected. Formerly it was known is the Perry property, but recently it is said Mrs. Emily Ettor had been proprietress. The place was owned by her and her two brothers, Charles, of Boston, and Abraham, of Portland.

The fact that the fire started in the top floor and in the early evening, about 9.30, probably meant the saving of several lives. Mrs. Ettor, her brother-in-law, George, and about six or seven others were in the building. They managed to escape but without any of their effects. Neighbors befriended some, while others drove into the city.

ZEPPELINS KILL MANY IN RAIDS ON ENGLAND

London, April 2—At least sixteen persons were killed and about one hundred others injured by the explosion of bombs dropped in another raid of Zeppelin dirigible balloons over the northeast coast of England Saturday night.

The official version of the raid says:

"Two airships approached the northeast coast Saturday night. Only one crossed the coast. The other turned back.

"For the present we know that sixteen persons were killed and about one hundred injured.

"Eight dwellings were demolished, and a serious fire was caused in a French polishing shop."

"The total casualties reported in the Zeppelin raid on the night of March 31-April 1, now amount to forty-three killed and sixty-six injured. Nearly two hundred explosive and incendiary bombs were dropped.

It is said at Newton (N. J.) that the Vernon Valley peach trees have been ruined by frost, the frost falling below zero many times this winter, and it is expected that New York residents will have to pay more for the fruit this season.

Many Soldiers On Missanabie

Steamer Brings 798 Passengers, Including 180 Officers and Soldiers—St. John Men on Board

Monday, April 3.

The C. P. R. steamer Missanabie arrived in port last evening with a large cargo, 798 passengers and 4,250 bags of mail, included in the passenger list were 180 returned officers and men from the war zone, many of whom were invalided home on account of injuries sustained on the battle fields.

The military party was in charge of Lieutenant Colonel G. T. Dennison, formerly of Toronto. He is engaged as director of recruiting and organization in England.

Captain P. Giroux of the 12th battalion returned to Canada on the steamer to take a new post. He is a frietnd of Lieut.-Col. Dansereau of th 69th Battalion and was the one who dressed the latter's wounds during the battle of St. Julien.

Dr. F. H. Neve of West St. John returned on the steamer after a three months visit to England. While there he had the pleasure of meeting Lieut.-Col. J. L. McAvity of the 26th and Major Magee of the heavy artillery.

Private Peterson of Queen street, West St. John, was one of the returned soldiers. He was in the west when the war broke out and enlisted with the Princess Pats.

Sergt. E. J. Puddy, of Blue Rock, of the 3rd C. F. A., who went overseas with Major Magee, was one of the men who was very glad to get home again to his family. When the steamer docked the guards on the gangplank allowed his little daughter, some five years of age, to make her way up to her wounded daddy who was waiting for her. It was a happy meeting and the little one was soon busily engaged in inquiring as to how badly he was hurt and if he would stay with her for good now. Sergt. Puddy was injured at Le Reversberg. His battery was firing at a passing enemy aeroplane and one of the horses was startled by the report and, rearing, fell over upon him.

A St. John boy in the person of Private W. A. Garfield, of 170 Adelaide street, was among the returned men. He was with the 5th C. A. S. C. and was kicked by a horse and invalided home.

Prominent among the civil passengers were Mrs. Greenwood, of Toronto; Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Grigg and Miss Grigg, of Montreal; W. F. Hamon, of Halifax; Miss L. Harris, of Quebec; W. D. McCarter, of Toronto; Mrs. Morrison, of Amherst; Dr. F. H. Neve, of St. John; Mrs. T. Ratcliffe, of Montreal; Mrs. F. G. Raves and sons, of Toronto; Mrs. J. E. Slocombe and son, of Quebec; Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Trott and son, of Ottawa, and R. Walker, of Amherst (N. S.)

HALF MEASURE FOR INQUIRY FAILS TO SATISFY LIBERALS

(Continued from page 1.)

mittee was on behalf of the British government."

The very wording affords grounds for a legal objection in case counsel for the defendants want to secure delay in that the whole investigation is ultra vires of any authority which could be conveyed by the inquiries act since it does not concern the administration of any department of the government or the expenditure of Canadian money.

Ask for More Sweeping Inquiry.

Failing the carrying of Sir Wilfrid's original motion, an opposition amendment, asking for a royal commission appointed by special statute of parliament and empowered to investigate the whole conduct of the shell committee operations either in the United States or in Canada may be expected. Such a commission would, under the laws governing the comity of nations, have a full court status enabling the summoning of witnesses either in Canada or in the United States. And would be able at its discretion to follow up all trains leading to irregularities or improprieties in connection with any contracts.

Furthermore, it is safe to say that the whole question cannot be finally settled until Major-General Sir Sam Hughes returns to Ottawa and makes his statement to parliament. That statement may show the necessity of investigating other matters than those specifically mentioned in the order-in-council presented today, namely, the muse contracts, the cartridge case contracts, and the picric acid contract, and it may also show that other ministers of the crown need a little investigation in addition to the minister of militia. The friends of Major-General Sir Sam Hughes frankly assert that he has no intentions of suffering alone and that he will make a few counter charges against some of his colleagues in the cabinet who are now ready to make him the sole scapegoat.

Inquiry Wider at Government's Direction.

Ottawa, April 3—(Canadian Press)—The order-in-council constituting the royal commission which is to investigate the Kyte charges, was brought down today and read to the house by the prime minister. It provided for the fullest inquiry into not only the four specific Kyte charges, but also into such other matters affecting the proceedings of the shell committee as may be referred to the commission by the government. The order is dated today, as having been approved by H. R. R. the Governor-General.

The commission is issued under part one of the inquiries act, following a report to council, dated March 31 by the prime minister "respecting the desirability of appointing a royal commission to inquire into certain contracts made by a committee (known as the shell committee and hereinafter referred to as that designation), of which Sir Alexander Bertram was chairman."

"The prime minister observes," says the second paragraph, "that the committee was constituted for the purpose of acting for the government of the United Kingdom (hereinafter referred to as the British government), and especially for the war office and afterwards the ministry of munitions, in giving orders under the direction and subject to the approval of the British government for shells required for the purposes of the present war; and that the expenditure made by the shell committee for that purpose was on behalf of the British government."

Four Contracts Specified.

The document refers to the charges made by Mr. Kyte, and states that a commission should issue "for the purpose of making a full and complete inquiry and investigation" into the four contracts made by the shell committee with the International Arms & Fuse Company, on June 19, 1915, with the American Ammunition Company, Incorporated, on June 19, 1915, with the Edwards Valve Company, of Chicago, or about July 16, 1915 and with the Providence Chemical Company of St. Louis, "if it should appear that the shell committee had entered into such contracts."

The first two contracts, it will be remembered, were for fuses, the third for cartridges, and the fourth alleged contract was for picric acid. The order-in-council proceeds:

J. WESLEY ALLISON, the honorary Colonel whose name just now does not sound pleasant to the members of Sir Robert Borden's government.

"The prime minister, therefore, recommends that a commission for the purpose aforesaid do issue under the said part one of the inquiries act, directed to the Honorable Sir William Ralph Meredith, K.C., chief justice of Ontario, and the Honorable Lyman Poole Duff, one of the justices of the supreme court of Canada, authorizing and requiring them with all reasonable diligence to make full and complete inquiry into the contract aforesaid and each of them, and into the acts and proceedings of the shell committee, whether by themselves or by other persons directly or indirectly, and of the minister of militia and defence by himself or by any other person or persons directly or indirectly in relation thereto or in connection therewith, and into the negotiations therefor, the profits or prospective profits arising thereunder, the disposition, division or allotment of such profits or prospective profits, or of any commission or reward for procuring the said contract or any of them, and as to the persons interested in any such profits, prospective profits, reward or commissions, and generally speaking into all other acts, transactions and matters of every kind relating to the said contracts, and each of them and to report the result of such inquiry with the evidence taken therein.

"Also to inquire into such other matters relating to the acts or proceedings of the shell committee as may be referred to the said commissioners by order-in-council from time to time and to report the result of any such further inquiries taken therein."

The commission is clothed with the powers under the inquiries act.

Sir Robert Borden also told the house today that a newspaper despatch from New York stating that an official of the British embassy in New York had been sent to acquaint the governor-general of Canada with regard to certain irregularities in the placing of Canadian contracts in the United States was untrue. He had brought the matter to the Duke of Connaught's attention and his royal highness had authorized him to state the report was untrue.

"Col." Allison Unattached.

In the commons tonight Mr. Proulx was told by the acting minister of militia that "John Wesley Allison, formerly of Morrisburg, and now of parts unknown" was appointed an honorary colonel in the Canadian militia on April 8, 1913. He was assigned to service on the remount committee. The further information was given that he is not attached to any corps or unit for overseas service, and still holds his rank as honorary colonel.

In answer to Hon. Charles Marcil, the prime minister said that certain confidential communications had been received relative to Canada's participation in the conference of the Allies held in Paris last week but "it was not in the public interest to make these communications public at present."

The house adjourned shortly before midnight.

THE RECENT WRECK ON THE VALLEY RAILWAY

BADLY SHATTERED.

THE OVERTURNED ENGINE.

These pictures were taken after the disastrous railway accident at Bull's Creek on the Valley Railway. After the accident Fireman Bell was found in the snow under the tender with the scalding water leaking on him, his presence being discovered only after the water had melted away the snow. The engine was overturned and the snow plough smashed almost to atoms.

WEST BATHURST MAN REPORTED KILLED IN ACTION

The midnight casualty list has the name of Everett Graham, West Bathurst, Gloucester Co. (N. B.), killed in action with the Canadian infantry.

MEMBER OF 104TH DIES AT SUSSEX

Sussex, N. B., April 3—(Special)—The first death among the many thousand of troops quartered here since the beginning of the war occurred this morning at 2 o'clock, when Private Gregory Reardon, of "B" company of the 104th battalion, passed away in the military hospital after a short illness of pneumonia. Deceased, who was thirty-two years of age, was a resident of Woodstock (N. B.), and is survived by a wife and two children.

The funeral cortege headed by the band of the 104th was formed from the parlors of Funeral Director F. W. Wallace with full military honors. The casket enshrouded with the Union Jack was conveyed to the depot on the shoulders of eight comrades of "B" company. An escort party carrying rifles with fixed bayonets marched on either side of the casket. The remains were taken to Woodstock on the 3.50 train this afternoon for interment. On arrival there the body will be met by "D" company of the 104th and the burial service will be conducted with military honors.

NOVA SCOTIAN SHOT WHILE DUCK-HUNTING

Halifax, April 3—William Duggan, aged 30 years, of Prospect (N. S.), was accidentally shot while duck shooting, and died of his injuries. The loaded gun was discharged as he stepped from a boat in one of the lakes near the village. Prosect is twenty-one miles from Halifax, and Duggan died while being brought to the city for medical treatment.

FRENCH GAIN AND LOSE AT VERDUN

(Continued from page 1.)

sank a Russian transport of about 12,000 tons, with troops and war material, and on March 31 sank another ship of 1,500 tons and one sailing ship. Our submarines effectively shelled fortified positions on the coast north of Poti (a Russian seaport in Trans-Caucasia on the Black Sea.)

"Turkish detachments made a surprise attack on British positions at Alamada, northeast of Sheikh Osman, which the British had been fortifying for some time. After suffering heavy losses the British retreated under protection of their long range guns to Sheikh Osman."

P. E. I. WELCOMES RETURNED SOLDIERS

Charlottetown, April 3—Privates John J. White, of the Princess Patricias and W. C. Crosby, of the 12th Battalion 4th Infantry Brigade, returned wounded Island soldiers were tendered a big reception on their arrival here today. Thousands of people were out to welcome them the mayor and others delivering addresses.

VOL. LV.

Fren Briti

British Positio French

Not only have th the French around V against the new Briti south of Ypres, in an the British won from Eloi proceeded throug latest British official

There have been Germans captured th court-Bethincourt sec ered by the Germans French held it the Ge

Of this operation in which large numb of extreme violence. but one, more furious the village of Haucou "in spite of repeate claim that the village

On their side, th position north of Av hand-to-hand encoun mans back through t metres along a front curtain of fire, in pre east of the Meuse, wh tense bombardment.

The French war of March a total of and that the French planes.

British In Heavy Fighti

London, April 6, 1 British official statement paign in the western n night reads:

"Early this morning heavy bombardment, the our new trenches at St The fighting proceeded al continues.

"At Hogge, a small party, which entered our promptly ejected, sufferi ualties.

"The artillery on both active today about Lens Boesinghe."

French Carry Undergrou

Paris, April 6, 10.50 troops in hand-to-hand west of Fort Douaumon German underground pass along a front of 500 me of about 200 metres.

A violent bombardmen by the Germans to the ea against Cote du Poivre, curtain of fire prevented tack, according to the o issued by the war office

The text of the statem "In the Argonne we e in the region of Vauquoi

"To the west of the mans continued to bomb the Bethincourt salient of Esnes and Montzville

"To the east of the M Poivre was subjected course of the day to a bardment, which fore tack, but our curtain o ed the enemy from set his trenches.

"To the southwest o mont a series of small of a hand-to-hand natu troops to progress in th passages and works of a front of 500 metres more than 200 metres.

"A counter attack de enemy at the end of the failed.

"In the Woevre our b trated their fire on vario enemy's front.

"In Lorraine our art activity to the east of Lu the Vezouse river and th

"There is no other eve the rest of the front, e cannonading.

French Summary of Air

"During the month of tors displayed much ac whole front, particularly Verdun. In the course o ial combats thirty-one Ge were brought down by o which fell in flames or the ground within our li two fell inside the Germ

"No doubt regarding t twenty-two aeroplanes w attacked within the enem of these were seen to fa ten were driven down the fire of our aviators.

"In addition, four Ge were brought down by o one of them within our virons of Avocourt, and enemy lines—one in the Suippes; oe near Nouvio St. Marie-a-Py.

"To this total of thi aeroplanes destroyed du of March should be oppo of our aerial losses, whi teen aeroplanes, as follow aeroplane brought down and twelve aeroplanes within the German lines

"The great disproport lls effected within the ose within the enemy

(Continued on p