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TO GREAT BRITAIN, POSTAGE PREPAID, \$2.00 PER YEAR, PAYABLE INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE

The Vancouver Times

VOL. 33.

VICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1902.

NO. 55.

RAILWAY MATTERS BEFORE COMMITTEE

APPLICATION MADE BY THE V., V. & E. CO.

For Permission to Cross Grand Forks Road and Build Branch Lines—The Decision.

Ottawa, Oct. 28.—The railway committee to-day heard the application of the Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern for the crossing of the Grand Forks & Kettle River railway, and also for building a branch from the main line to Columbia and Grand Forks, and also a branch line to Granby smelter. A. H. McNeil, K. C., of Roseland, and Aulay Morrison, M. P., appeared for the application, and there were opposed to it Mr. Aylesworth, K. C., and Mr. Boland, of Toronto, for the Grand Forks.

Mr. McNeil advanced a strong argument why the road should be built in the interest of the province. Of 350 miles, he said, that the minister had approved 133 miles. As far as the Grand Forks road was concerned, it would never amount to more than three or four miles. Objections argued against the road because the chief interest was held in it by J. J. Hill, were not valid. On the contrary, its construction would give another transcontinental line to British Columbia.

Mr. Aylesworth opposed the crossing of the Grand Forks & Kettle River road. He said that there were only some 13 miles of road built, and what was asked was for a connection with Mr. Hill's American road. He read from Mr. Hill's affidavit at Washington that the road from Marcus to Republic would afford one continuous line by the Victoria, Vancouver & Eastern. That was by 10 miles of this road built to the connection with the American road to be made. He argued that the use for which the charter was being granted was being perverted to the foreign purpose, for which it was intended. Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann first purchased the charter rights, and after they sold the same to Mr. Hill. That was how the Great Northern got connection to the charter.

Hon. A. G. Blair.—So far your argument is legal. Would you say why the committee should not be crossing in the public interest? When in the West, he found a strong feeling in favor of this crossing, since the building of it would be in the interest of the people, and they cannot well see why such arbitrary thing as a crossing is being rejected. The legal question might be left to the courts.

Mr. Aylesworth thought that if the committee granted the crossing it might affect the case before the courts. Mr. Blair did not think that the question as to who had an interest in this road was so much their concern as was the building of the road in the interest of the country.

Hon. C. Fitzpatrick.—What was important was that there were smelters and mines which require the road. What you say is that franchisees have not been passed at all, and that the question is now sub judice.

Mr. Aylesworth—I say the question has not been decided by the crossing. Mr. Blair.—We might decide what was in the public interest and leave the rest to the courts.

Mr. Aylesworth—If the courts are not acting quick enough then a case could be prepared and submitted to the Supreme court for a speedy decision.

ROBBERS USED DYNAMITE

Blew Open Safe and Took Away \$4,000—Exchanged Shots With Police Officers.

Des Moines, Ia., Oct. 28.—At Prairie City early this morning robbers dynamited the safe of the Iowa State Bank and secured an amount approximating \$4,000. They exchanged a fusillade of shots with local officers and escaped. Nightwatchman Erskine discovered four men approaching the bank at 1 o'clock. One of the men covered him and kept him covered with a rifle for three hours, while another broke open the bank door and worked at the safes. The other two men patrolled the street and by a system of signs were able to hold at bay several citizens attracted to the scene. Five dynamite shots were fired by the man in the bank before he succeeded in getting at the cash box. At 4 o'clock the men escaped, after firing a number of shots to terrify the citizens and shooting through the door of a house which fire had been opened. A house was quickly formed and is on the trail of the robbers.

WESTERN UNION WON

Decision of United States Court of Appeals in Important Case.

Chicago, Ill., Oct. 28.—An important principle of law was established today when Judge Baker, Cressney and Bunn, of the United States Court of Appeals, handed down an opinion to the effect that the Western Union Telegraph Company has a right of property in the news which it gathers, and that such right does not cease when the news is published on the tickers rented to patrons.

A NEW MOVE

Board Will Be Formed to Deal With Commerce of the Chinese Empire.

Washington, Oct. 28.—Minister Wu Ting Fang has not been advised of the appointment of Yuen Shi Kai as minister of commerce of the Chinese Empire, although the appointment has been made. He would not be surprised. The ministry of commerce, to which Minister Wu has been appointed, is a special board whose duties relate to the empire as a whole. He will be associated with others, the title of each of which of them will be minister of commerce. Yuen Shi Kai may be one of these.

WILL CALL AT FANNING

Australian Liners to Stop at Site of One of Pacific Cable Stations.

San Francisco, Oct. 28.—The Australian mail steamers will call in future at Fanning island. The Sonoma, which has arrived from Sydney, stopped at the new cable station and Capt. Elderton sent a message to the owners of the vessel. "The island is very low," said Purser Hodson of the Sonoma, "but the people who are working there say it is the most healthful they ever lived in."

NO HOPE FOR RECOVERY

G. R. Maxwell, M. P., Is in a Critical Condition.

Vancouver, Oct. 28.—Dr. Meredith Jones came up from Victoria this morning and with four local physicians held a consultation over G. R. Maxwell, M. P. They agreed, after a thorough examination, that an enlargement of the liver is his ailment, and they hold out no hope for his recovery.

RAVAGES OF CHOLERA

Over Seventy-Five Thousand Cases in the Philippines Since Last March.

Washington, Oct. 28.—The fearful ravages of the plague and cholera in the old world are set forth in the mails received by the marine hospitals service. Chief Quarantine Officer Ferry at Manila makes a conservative estimate that the cases of cholera which have actually occurred in the Philippines since March 20th last, aggregate 75,000 with a mortality of 75 per cent.

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY

Will Be Observed on May 25th—Special War Gratuity.

Ottawa, Oct. 27.—A proclamation appearing in the Canada Gazette, appoints Monday, May 25th, for the observance of the King's birthday. The colonial secretary has sent out a notice to Canada that the special war gratuity will be paid to officers and men who served in the South African Constabulary between October 10th, 1899, and 31st of May, 1902.

DEFUNCT BANK

Creditors Will Get About Fifty Per Cent. of Their Deposits.

Peterboro, Ont., Oct. 29.—The creditors of the defunct private bank of Lindsay & Co., Laketown, will get about fifty per cent. of their deposits. The liabilities of the bank are \$25,000, and available assets about \$7,000.

THE MEETING OF COAL COMMISSION

FIRST WITNESS TO BE HEARD ON THURSDAY

Operators Object to Mitchell Appearing as a Representative of the Mine Workers' Union.

Washington, Oct. 27.—The anthracite coal strike commission to-day, in the hearing room of the Interstate Commerce commission, held its first conference with the parties to the controversy in the anthracite regions. There was a full representation of both operators and miners and members of the press and other interested parties were present. The proceedings covered about two hours' time, and were given up entirely to a discussion of the time and method of proceeding with the proposed investigation. The commission decided to begin work next Thursday morning at 9 o'clock, the first day of the investigation to be devoted to an examination of the mines and homes of the miners, starting in the vicinity of Scranton. The entire anthracite field will be covered.

Judge Gray, president of the commission, read the order of the President creating the commission, and in a general way outlined the procedure to be followed in the presentation of the issues. He said that in accordance with the memorial practice among English-speaking people, the commission would first receive the statements or demands of the miners, who were to be regarded, for the purposes of this case, as the prosecutors. The reply of the other side could then be heard, Judge Gray said, in order that the commission might have before it a definite issue.

At the conclusion of Judge Gray's remarks President Mitchell said that he had with him the formal demands made by the miners upon the operators. At the suggestion of Judge Gray he read the demands adopted by the Shamokin convention, the rejection of which resulted in the strike. Walter Edward Weyl was also present as a representative of the miners.

President Baer, of the Philadelphia & Reading railroad, objected to the appearance of Mr. Mitchell as a representative of the United Mine Workers of America, but said he had no objection to Mitchell's appearance as a representative of the anthracite coal miners generally. Mr. Baer's objection was to avoid the recognition of the Mine Workers' Union as an order.

Mr. Mitchell replied that the objection to his status was not involved in the case. He said that he appeared as a representative of the anthracite coal miners, and distinctly refrained in his reply from mentioning the union.

Presidents Baer and Thomas suggested that the commission proceed at once to the coal fields in order that it might be informed at the outset as to the conditions there. It was agreed that Mr. Mitchell should file with the commission next Monday a detailed statement of the claims of the miners. The statement he read to-day was a preliminary statement of the case.

The representatives of the operators announced that they would file an answer to this statement of Mr. Mitchell on Monday within three days of that time. It was suggested that each side to the controversy appoint an expert to go through the books of the coal companies to secure data upon which to work, but President Baer and other representatives of the companies immediately objected, and suggested that they would furnish whatever information it needed. This question precipitated a long discussion, in which the coal presidents and the miners' representatives took part.

On the discussion over opening the books to the experts, Mr. Baer said the operators would be prepared to meet the miners in the region and to assist in giving all information. Many of the individual operators are not represented, and they were not consulted, and were not compromised by the letter he had written.

Judge Gray suggested that they could be represented. At the meeting next Monday they would determine which of the companies could be taken up first, and the place of meeting could be determined by the coal company taken up. Mr. Baer said that the cause of each coal company would be dealt with separately. He would contend for the sliding scale on the regulation of wages. He said: "I shall urge the adoption of that profit-sharing plan, which gave us peace formerly in our relation to our employees."

WERE PROBABLY BOTH MURDERED

FARMER AND HIS MOTHER FOUND DEAD

Man Had a Bullet Hole in Temple While the Woman's Head Was Crushed.

Butte, Mont., Oct. 29.—Dispatches from Bear Mouth give the following details of the discovery of a double crime at the Conn ranch, on Willow Creek, which was at first believed to have been committed by the lone bandit who robbed the Northern Pacific express train last week.

A member of a threshing crew on an adjoining ranch had occasion to visit the Conn ranch, and when he entered a farm house Jas. Conn lay dead on the floor with a bullet hole through his temple. Near him lay his mother, her head crushed, presumably by the butt of a revolver. At the time of the hold-up of the Northern Pacific train, bloodstains were put upon the track of the robber. The dogs followed it for several miles in the direction of Willow Creek district, but lost the scent. Those familiar with the country decided at the time of the robbery that in all probability the outlaw would attempt to escape in that direction, as the country is such as to afford an excellent opportunity to evade capture, being heavily timbered.

Near the stable the threshing men met a demented woman who had dwelt with the Conn family for some time. This woman killed her husband about twenty years ago, and it is believed that she may have knowledge of the tragedy. The scene of the crime is about three miles from Bear Mouth.

Bank Robbery

Rochester, N. Y., Oct. 29.—Burglars dynamited the vault of the private bank of Charles K. Napp, in Sodus, early this morning. It is believed they got \$5,000 in cash, the owner refusing to name the amount. The vault was completely wrecked.

Work of Masked Men

Chicago, Ill., Oct. 29.—After binding and gagging the town marshal of Gardner, Ill., last night, five masked men entered the Exchange National Bank, blew open the vault, secured with \$4,000. Gardner is 65 miles from Chicago, on the Alton road.

JEWELS RETURNED

They Were Stolen Twenty Years Ago and Reached Owner To-Day.

Rochester, N. Y., Oct. 29.—Twenty years ago to a day the residence of Mrs. Cora M. Elliott, of Ogdensburg, was robbed of jewels worth \$1,000. No trace of the missing jewels was found, and a few years later Mrs. Elliott moved to Rochester. Yesterday the postman delivered to Mrs. Elliott a little oblong box, made of cardboard, and when it was opened she found, carefully rolled up in cotton, the missing jewels. The box bore the postmark of Prescott, Ont., and the jewels returned were a unique long, heavy gold chain made by Mrs. Elliott's husband, who took the gold from a mine himself. Each link had a gold dollar attached.

SAD FATALITY

Young Lady Accidentally Shot By Her Fourteen-Year-Old Brother.

St. Catharines, Ont., Oct. 28.—A shooting accident occurred here about 8 o'clock this evening, when Miss Muriel Benson, aged 20, was accidentally shot through the head by her young brother Carl, who is only about 14 years of age. The boy was examining a small rifle at the home when it discharged, the bullet entering the back of his sister's head. Miss Benson died in a few minutes.

CALIFORNIA'S WHEAT CROP

Yield Is Much Below Estimate—Large Quantity of Wheat Booked for Australia.

San Francisco, Oct. 28.—The upward movement in the price of wheat is causing considerable excitement in local commercial circles, and the market is showing more activity than for many months. The fact has developed that early estimates of the crop of this state were far from the actual facts. The reports at first indicated a yield of about 800,000 tons. Now that the harvest is over, the crop is believed to be only 600,000, or a trifle over. The extent of the wheat shortage is shown by the estimate that there will be between 25,000,000 and 30,000,000 grain bags carried over this year, against 10,000,000 to 15,000,000 in ordinary seasons. The great drought in Australia is turning a large quantity of wheat in that direction which would otherwise be shipped to Europe, although the British ship Oliver, steamer Zolms has brought news that the drought was breaking and better conditions prevailed. The British ships Oliver, dr. Trafalgar, Giandria, Riviswood and Yimera have all been chartered to load wheat for Australia, and other vessels may be engaged before the end of the week.

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The Times \$1

26 BROAD STREET VICTORIA, B. C.

NEW UNDER SECRETARY

London Times Not Pleased With Appointment of Sir A. P. MacDonnell.

London, Oct. 29.—The official announcement of Sir Anthony Patrick MacDonnell to the post of permanent under-secretary for Ireland, in succession to Sir David Harrel, leads the Times this morning to an editorial display of veiled discontent. The paper says the removal of Sir David Harrel on a pension, while his energy and powers are unabated, causes surprise, and hints that Sir David wanted to have the Crimes Act enforced in Ireland earlier than it was, but that he was overruled in higher quarters. The Times explains that the under-secretary for Ireland is always in close touch with the Irish constabulary, and that Sir David was formerly an officer in this organization. The journal points out that Sir Anthony Patrick MacDonnell is an Irishman and a Catholic and that his brother, Anthony MacDonnell, is a Nationalist member of the House of Commons, and that Sir Anthony a lesson in acting with absolute neutrality in his new position, drawing the line clearly between sentiment and the public policy.

THE KING AT RACES

Was Present When W. C. Whitney's Ballantrae Won the Cambridge-shire Stakes.

London, Oct. 29.—The racing at Newmarket to-day was attended by the crowd of fashionable people who generally witness the contest for the Cambridge-shire stakes, for which the entries were more numerous than usual. W. C. Whitney's Ballantrae was a hot favorite for the event of the day. King Edward was an interested spectator of the races.

EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANO

Are Causing Much Anxiety Throughout Guatemala—Town Covered With Ashes.

New York, Oct. 29.—There have been serious earthquakes throughout Guatemala, and the volcano of Santa Maria is still in great eruption, cables the correspondent of the Herald at Guatemala city. The Santa Maria volcano has thrown a deep mantle of ashes upon the town of Quetzaltenango, which has been partly rebuilt since the earthquakes of last April, and upon the town of Masantenago.

PROMINENT PHYSICIAN DEAD

Dr. Daniel E. Hughes, of Philadelphia, Passes Away.

Philadelphia, Pa., Oct. 28.—Dr. Daniel E. Hughes, chief resident physician of the Philadelphia alms house, died to-day of tubercular peritonitis, the germs of which disease he is believed to have contracted from a patient in the hospital. Dr. Hughes had an international reputation as an alienist. He devoted his life to a study of insanity and amelioration of the conditions of the criminal and pauper insane.

HANGING FROM TREE

Body of Man Who Disappeared in Spring Has Been Found.

Roberval, Que., Oct. 28.—Last spring Francis Guerin mysteriously disappeared from this place and was thought to be drowned. On Sunday two children of the town of Roberval, while out for their usual walk, and about two miles from their home they found the body of a man hanging from a tree. The remains were identified as those of Guerin. A verdict of suicide was found.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S VOYAGE

London, Oct. 28.—In accordance with the wish of King Edward, the colonial secretary, Mr. Chamberlain, is to be conveyed to South Africa on board a naval vessel, and the admiralty has assigned the new cruiser Good Hope to this duty.