

## THE POWER OF THE PEERS ENGLAND'S GREAT QUESTION

### The Struggle Which Began in the Education Bill Debate Will be a Sharp One—No New Election Just Now.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—There will be no dissolution of parliament as a result of the action of the House of Lords in defeating the Government's education bill. Although the rejection of this, the most serious of the session, is the most serious rebuff Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's cabinet has yet suffered, it is not regarded as being sufficiently grave to necessitate an appeal to the country. Whether the Government could successfully appeal to the nation on the education bill is the question on which many Liberals are in doubt. The only immediate effect of the step taken by the Upper House, therefore, will be to give an enormous impetus to the radical agitation in favor of curbing the veto powers of the peers and to furnish the non-conformists with a new gun and ammunition in their fight for the disestablishment of the Church of England. There is today widespread impression that a purely secular education bill will be introduced during the next session of parliament, while no doubt the cabinet during recess will consider what means are possible to prevent the Lords from nullifying prolonged labors of the Commons and to deprive their veto of measure passed twice by the lower house. It is the general view of politicians that the peers have entered into a constitutional struggle embracing much more than the education bill. The Liberal promise that there shall be no cessation of the fight until the constitutional issue is settled is to be forever checkmated by the "standing committee" of the Tory peers.

King Edward today received the premier at Buckingham Palace. It is understood that his Majesty wished to checkmate the political situation as affected by the education question.

## SCORE KILLED BY EXPLOSION

### Mississippi River Steamer Blown to Atoms

#### Most of the Victims are Negroes—Captain and Pilot Among the Killed—Many Missing

VICKSBURG, Miss., Dec. 19.—One of the worst accidents in recent history of the Mississippi River occurred today, when the steamer W. T. Scovel, plying in the Vicksburg and Davis Bend trade was destroyed by an explosion. Owing to the large number of negroes on board it is impossible to ascertain the exact number of the dead and injured, but the officers of the boat who arrived here tonight state that no less than ten or more than sixteen were killed. It is believed an equal number were injured. Among the dead is Captain John Quackenbush, master of the steamer, and John Dougherty, the pilot.

The number of dead and injured negroes cannot be stated at this time, but a crew and passenger list of about forty about half are missing. The bodies of the dead negroes were cared for at the place where the accident occurred, as were also some of the injured. Five of the injured negroes were brought to Vicksburg on the steamer Senator Cordell with the white crew.

The accident occurred at Gold Lute Landing, about 17 miles south of Vicksburg.

The Scovel was at the landing taking on freight just before noon, when suddenly a terrific explosion occurred and the boat was blown almost to atoms.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 20.—Details of the packet Scovel explosion place the number of the dead at twelve, four whites and eight negroes. A part of the boiler after cutting through a mast continued on its flight for 200 yards ploughing up the earth for fifty feet. The body of Lavelle Yeager, was found on the bank beneath a log which had crushed out his life. Under the same log was the body of a negro with whom Yeager had been talking.

## TO COMPLETE ORGANIZATION

### Large Gathering of Kings Co. Liberals at Rothesay

#### Addressed by Messrs Scovil and King—Discussion Regarding a Noon Train—Business Transacted

(Special Correspondence of the Sun.)  
ROTHESAY, Dec. 19.—In spite of the inclement weather a representative audience gathered in the Bellevue Hotel tonight to complete a permanent Liberal organization, elect delegates to the Liberal convention to be held in St. John next week and listen to a rousing speech from O. P. King, M. R. P., and hear George G. Scovil for the first time since he was in the legislature.

MR. SCOVIL

Councillor Gilbert was in the chair when the meeting opened, and Mr. Scovil was the first speaker. He was brief, but cordial in his pleasure at meeting Rothesay supporters for the first time. He praised them for their united front, spoke of the difficulties that beset the movement, and expressed his hope that the meeting would be a success. He spoke for a train to St. John made his speech shorter than it might have been. His reception was a capital one.

MR. KING

Mr. King was not talking long before he grappled with the road law and compared the old statute with the new, showing how formerly a man paid three dollars on \$100 assessment and now pays \$2.20, how in the old days he got 50 cents a day for his work and now can't be hired for less than \$1.25 and often \$1.50.

He then tried the one man for three parishes plan and had found it wanting, now after the new year there would be a man for every parish. To send a superintendent from one parish to another was not a successful way, there were lots of things he was not acquainted with and he was confident that the closer you get to the people in such matters the more satisfactory was the result. He pointed out that the appointed by municipalities were even closer to the electors than those named by the government, but it was a question whether they were as satisfactory or not, however, they were subject to a change of councillors every two years. But at any rate the opinions of auto owners who have driven all over the province and Maine considered the possibilities of a better road than anywhere else in the Maritime Provinces.

Properly so. We want the best for the best farmers the men who have set the pace in better roads during the last 24 hours, and who are better equipped than any other men in the province.

He then spoke in a practical way of the general purpose horse, the need of more of them, the difficulty of getting good teams, and the high prices than have to be paid for them.

Concluding his forcible address, Mr. King said that when the campaign opened he would be pleased to go into their candidates. The government had nothing to fear from criticism, their record would bear inspection and they were willing to give an account of their stewardship at any time. (Applause.)

Councillor Gilbert endorsed what Mr. King had said about "old statutes" and called upon Coun. GILLIAND, who had just entered the room.

A telegram of regret at his inability to be present was read as well as a letter from Hon. A. S. White, who on account of illness was prevented from attending. He advised the electors to send a good delegation to the convention.

E. S. Carter presented the report of the nominating committee which was called upon Coun. GILLIAND. The electors chose to compose the committee were as follows: Thomas Gilliland, chairman; D. A. Pugsley, vice-chairman and treasurer; E. S. Carter, secretary; A. M. Saunders, S. Z. Dickson, W. S. Saunders, Abner McPate, Terence McLaughlin, Jacob Kemp, Chas. Maynes, Wm. McLaughlin and George Green and the officers, executive committee.

This was adopted after some suggestions and the meeting proceeded to elect delegates to the convention, which meets in St. John December 27.

Mr. King explained that five dele-

## PREPARING FOR THE DAYS OF AERIAL NAVIGATION

### FIRST THROUGH TRAIN CHEERED

#### Passed Over Mckenzie & Mann's New Road

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 19.—The first through train over the Halifax and Southwestern, McKenzie and Mann's new road along the south shore of Nova Scotia, arrived at Yarmouth this evening at eight o'clock. Among those on board were Governor Fraser, Premier Murray, Governor Engineer McCord and William McKenzie, one of the owners, General Manager Spencer and other officials of the road.

In conversation with your representative, the governor said the trip was a delightful one. The train was heartily cheered all along the line. Commencing Saturday, a through service will be inaugurated, a passenger train leaving Halifax and Yarmouth every other day. The new road is 220 miles long and promises to be an active competitor of the Dominion Atlantic Railway, which runs from Halifax to Yarmouth, through the Annapolis valley.

### France Making Plans for the Work of Various Departments of the Government When Airships are Used by Everyone.

PARIS, Dec. 20.—So confident is the French government that the day is only a short distance off when aerial locomotion will be practical that several commissions are at work elaborating plans for meeting in the various branches of public service, the solution of any new problems which the revolution will entail. Capt. Ferber of the French army, who is devoting all his time to aerostatics and who conducted the negotiations on behalf of his government with the Wright Bros., agrees with Santos Dumont that flying machines in a few years will be as common as automobiles today. In the next war he is convinced there will be battles between flotillas of airships. "Human mastery of the air," said he, "is virtually achieved. None of the startling achievements of the past, neither steam, electricity nor the telephone can compare with what the future holds in store for us. Not only will the life of individuals be revolutionized, but governments will be compelled to devise, in almost every department new methods to meet the changed conditions. This change will come with amazing suddenness, and France is taking the precaution to meet it. The customs service present methods of watching the frontiers will be obsolete. Aerial patrols will be necessary to prevent the smuggling of contraband across the border.

The police of all cities will have to be provided with flying machines in order to protect the people from the new opportunities for crime which the new locomotion will place in the power of criminals. It would seem that flying machines would enable anarchists to achieve any and by their agents, not only with rifles, but whole cities, with the going sailing, and the sea, to be as a rule, and to find their way to any part of the world on solid ground. In war the intelligence service will be entirely changed, to the aerostatic divisions and armed airships will be the business of the future. "Captain Ferber believes the solution of the problem of aerial navigation lies in the question of equilibrium as the principle of flight, that is area of aeroplanes surface and speed. He contends that the doming of the air at present employed by birds was only obtained as a result of slow process of evolution comparable in a way to slow perfection of the present means of flight.

## Buy His Christmas Gift At HARVEY'S

There are so many useful and acceptable Christmas gifts here for men and boys that it would be a real treat to call your attention to them, but you'd do better to see them, then you'll appreciate them fully. A dollar goes farther here.

Regular \$6.00 to \$20.00 Overcoats,  
Now selling at \$4.95, 6, 7.50, 8.75, 10.40 and \$15

### J. N. HARVEY,

Clothing and Furnishings,  
100 to 107 Union St.

## I.C.R. SHOULD NOT BE SOLD SAYS MAYOR OF HALIFAX

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 19.—Mayor McIlreith, who has just returned from Ottawa and Montreal, where he has been discussing steamship mails and railway matters with the Government, the C. P. R. and the Grand Trunk of Canada, made a special report to the city council tonight. In view of the action taken by Deputy Mayor Johnson, who, in the absence of Mayor MacIlreith presented a message to the council advocating the sale of the Intercolonial, one feature of the report is significant.

Mayor MacIlreith says, "After a full consideration and study as I have been able to give to the matter of railway transportation at Halifax, and after discussing it with both our friends and those who are unfriendly to us, I am clearly of the opinion, in which opinion I may say the president of the Board of Trade agrees, that the Intercolonial Railway should not be given to the control of any one company. It should be kept as a government line for the purpose for which it was originally intended, namely, leaving not only the interest of Halifax, but of the other portions of the Maritime Provinces as fair and reasonable passenger and freight rates; and for the further purpose of enabling other lines of railway to run trains over its rails under fair and proper traffic arrangements.

"We must realize that the Intercolonial Railway must be looked at from the standpoint of all the towns and districts which it serves. The question is not merely a Halifax question, nor even a provincial question. Everything considered, therefore, it seems to me that our proper course is to ask the department to retain control of the Intercolonial railway, to reduce its curves, to lower its grades and double-track the line between Moncton and Halifax so that when the rapidly increasing business of the great West makes it necessary to find other outlets for the great export of the country we will be in a position to meet the demand to take our place as one of the ports of Canada and the I. C. R. will be in a position to provide facilities for traffic on reasonable terms for all railways seeking an outlet for their business at Halifax.

## WORK ON THE G. T. P. FIVE TEAMS IN CAPE BRETON HOCKEY LEAGUE

(Special to the Sun.)  
SYDNEY, N. S., Dec. 19.—Five teams will compete in the Cape Breton Hockey League in 1907. The Sydney Nationals, Sydney Y. M. C. A., Glouce Bay, North Sydney, and Dominion. The league met this afternoon and elected officers for the coming year. They are: Hon. president, S. M. McCaulay; president, F. Graham; first vice president, E. H. Stevenson; second vice president, F. A. Chalmers; hon. treasurer, C. A. Hault; hon. secretary, C. B. Smith.

The association decided to affiliate with the C. B. A. A. A. At a subsequent meeting of the league a schedule was drawn up. After the hockey league meeting adjourned a brief meeting of the new Cape Breton County Athletic Association was held. A draft constitution modeled much on that of the C. B. A. A. was submitted. The association will meet again on December 28th.

## THE EDWIN HUNT IS REPORTED SAFE

She Has Been Four Months on the Passage from Boston to Chester

BOSTON, Dec. 19.—Shipping men in this city were much relieved today to learn that the Bath, Maine, schooner Edwin R. Hunt, which sailed from this port on August 16th bound for Chester, Pa., by way of St. Ann's, Cape Breton, had been spoken in the vicinity of Bermuda slowly making her way back to the coast after being missing since October 20th.

The Hunt has been a trifle over four months in making her voyage of less than two thousand miles, which is about the time of an ordinary trip from New York to San Francisco.

The run from the city to St. Ann's last fall required 45 days, while this Hunt has been 17 days in her voyage down the coast and is still at sea some where off the Delaware Capes.

Captain Sargent of the Hunt reported that his chronometer had been broken and that he had had difficulty in working out his position.

As there have been strong offshore gales in the vicinity of the Delaware Capes during the past few days it will probably be some days yet before the Hunt's anchor touches bottom.

## FIFTEEN YEAR OLD MURDERER SENTENCED

CHICAGO, Dec. 19.—Robert Gordon, 15 years of age, was today sentenced to the reformatory for life after pleading guilty to the charge of murdering Joseph Reed, 8 years old.

Gordon pulled the Reed boy under a sidewalk, pounded him on the head with a brick until he was unconscious and then dug a hole in the earth in which he placed young Reed. Gordon then heaped the earth over Reed and allowed him to suffocate.

The young murderer showed no emotion when he entered his plea of guilty or when he was sentenced.

## JEFFRIES DRAWS THE COLOR LINE

TONOPAH, Nev., Dec. 19.—James J. Jeffries today was selected as referee of the Gans-Herman fight. The articles of agreement gave the Casino Athletic Club the right of selection if the principals could agree. Jeffries has accepted.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 18.—James J. Jeffries today said that he would agree to fight Tony Burns if a \$50,000 purse was provided. It would not, he said, make a match with Jack Johnson, a colored pugilist, for any sum.

## TEXAKANA, TEX., DEC. 20.—The Bank of Horatio, Ark., was looted by two robbers yesterday afternoon of \$4,000. Several shots were fired at the fleeing robbers, who escaped.

## JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN HAS LOST HIS MEMORY

Overlived His Strength During Birthday Celebration.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—A despatch from London says:—"The long retirement of Joseph Chamberlain owing to Government and other ailments has led to constant assertions and corroboration regarding the possibility of his recovery. The Chronicle states that he greatly overtaxed his strength at the celebrations in honor of his 70th birthday at Birmingham, with the result that he lost his memory completely. The last he can remember was that he had taken even a few hours before and although his other faculties were and are unimpaired his memory is gone.

## CONSERVATIVE ELECTED IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., Dec. 19.—In the provincial election today in the first district of Queens, for the seat of the late Hon. George Simpson, the Liberal, whose majority in the general election of 1904 was 38, Murdoch Kennedy (Conservative) was elected by a majority of 45. Kennedy made big gains at polls where he and relatives had extensive business interests. The Conservatives made a dead set on the district.

McLean, M.P., came from Ottawa to take part in the campaign. They took a strong ground against the increase in the Dominion subsidy for the province, claiming the Liberals did not secure enough.

## BIG SHIPPING COMPANY ORGANIZED IN JAPAN

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—A despatch from Tokio to the Times says:—"A new shipping company has been formed in Japan. It already possesses a fleet of 100,000 tons. Its capital is \$1,000,000 of which half represents the value of the existing fleet. The remainder is to be devoted to building new ships. The company intends to establish services to Formosa, Hokkaido, Java, Vladivostok, North China, Hong Kong, Manila, Hawaii, America, the South Sea and India.

## JERKING OF THE LIMBS.

"Before using Dr. Chase's Nerve Food I could not sleep, had no appetite, hands and feet were cold, my digestion was poor and I had jerking of the limbs. Dr. Chase's Nerve Food has made a radical change in my condition, building up the system and strengthening the nerves."—Mr. Wm. Branton, Victoria St., Stratford, Ont.

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## GRAIN ELEVATOR IN WATERBURY BURNED

### Less is \$55,000—Big Lumber Yard Had a Narrow Escape

WATERBURY, Conn., Dec. 19.—The feed and grain elevator at the Platt Mills Co., located on Benedict street, was practically destroyed by fire this afternoon. The fire started in the top of the structure from some cause not yet explained. The loss to building and stock, it is estimated, will be about \$55,000, with insurance of about \$30,000.

The entire city department was called out to cope with the blaze, which was located in the heart of the wholesale district and adjacent to large lumber yards. The firemen worked desperately to prevent the spread of the fire, and their efforts, aided by the fact that there was practically no wind, were successful in confining the flames to the building in which they started. It was an hour's fight to bring the fire under control and three hours from the time the alarm was sounded in before it was deemed safe to send part of the fire fighting force from the scene.

The stock in the elevator consisted largely of hen food and grain and this, tonight, could not be replaced for less than \$15,000 or \$20,000, while the building suffered damage of about \$40,000.

Mr. Camp's son George stated that when he left the building tonight shortly before the fire broke out everything was all right, so far as he knew.

## Hockey Sticks

should be bought where you find the greatest variety and largest stock, namely, at our Sporting Goods Department, the most attractive and interesting spot in town for all sporting characters and everybody else.

BOYS'.....	15 cents each
SECOND GROWTH.....	25 cents each
SECOND GROWTH WHITE ASH.....	30 cents each
IRONWOODS.....	40 cents each
LIFTER.....	40 cents each
SALYARDS.....	50 cents each
SPALDING GOALS.....	50 cents each
HEX, FINEST STICK MADE.....	75 cents each

## W. H. Thorne & Co., Limited

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ORIAL  
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You Have Bought  
In Use for Over Years  
ORIAL  
FOR GIFTS  
AT SANBORN'S—A  
nice warm Slippers  
F. Father, Comfort-  
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