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# ST. JOHN SEMI-WEEKLY SUN

VOL. 24. ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1901. NO. 45


## SOUTH AFRICA.

### Scanty News from the Front—Zeerust was Besieged for Months.

### War Office Announce that All Information Re Recent Engagements Have Been Made Public—Vigorous Attack on Willowmore.

LONDON, May 31.—On the anniversary of Lord Roberts' entry into Johannesburg comes the news of severe fighting and heavy losses within forty miles of the gold reef city. The battle at Valdfontein on the Durban-Johannesburg railroad, reported by Lord Kitchener today, is the most serious engagement since General Clements' reverse at Magaliesburg. The garrison of Vladfontein, apparently largely composed of yeomanry, had 174 men put out of action. That their assailants came to close quarters and suffered heavily is shown by the number of dead left on the field.

The despatch from Lord Kitchener, dated Pretoria May 30, is as follows:

LONDON, May 31.—Lord Kitchener reports to the war office under date of Pretoria, May 31, as follows:—

"General Dixon's force at Vladfontein was attacked yesterday by Delarey's forces and there was severe fighting. The enemy was eventually driven off with heavy loss, leaving 85 dead. I regret that our casualties also were severe. The killed and wounded numbered one hundred and seventy-four. Four officers were killed."

NEW YORK, June 1.—General Kitchener's account of the battle of Viakfontein serves to light up public interest once more in the Boer war, says the Tribune's London correspondent. Two facts stand out; first, the determined nature of the Boers' assault upon an intrenched position, fifty miles from Johannesburg; and, secondly, the heavy loss suffered by both sides. This has been the first real engagement which has been fought for many months, and it is decisive proof that the Boers, when led by a cool and wary general like Delarey, can offer strenuous resistance still to British arms. The details of this battle may indicate that General Dixon's force was surprised and that the casualty list was run up to 174 in this way. But the Boers, in any event, were assailants and were not repulsed without severe losses. The Boers are also reported to have fought with exceptional gallantry, while in pursuit of General Plummer's convoy.

A British officer who is on furlough in London, after fighting from Colenso to Lydenberg, has been predicting that the closing skirmishing of the campaign would occur on the line of the Durban-Johannesburg railway in the vicinity of Heidelberg and Standerton. Both of these affairs were within the theatre of war defined by this officer months ago as the last Boer ditch.

The natural explanation of the fighting is that one mine after another is opening in the Rand and the refugees are returning to Johannesburg in small groups, and the Boers have been making desperate efforts to frighten them and to prevent resumption of industry in the gold belt. Viakfontein was probably designed to be a loud warning to the refugees that the war has not ended, and that Johannesburg was still an unsafe place of residence.

LONDON, June 1.—The reticence of the government regarding the battle of Vladfontein and other military events of some importance which have recently occurred at widely separated points in South Africa, has led to considerable anxiety. This is in no way allayed by the answer of the war office today to the question regarding the accuracy or otherwise of the recent Boer report that the British were severely defeated near Pretoria May 2, losing 46 killed, 80 wounded, 600 prisoners and six guns. The reply which the war office vouchsafed, "We have no official information," has aroused some discussion.

LONDON, June 1.—The Sun today publishes a sensational story to the effect that General Botha has arrived at Standerton and is comunicating by telegraph with Mr. Kruger through the Netherlands government, appealing to Mr. Kruger to sue for peace. Lord Kitchener is said to have given Botha permission to adopt this course. The Sun further hears that 10,000 Zulus have gone on the warpath owing to Boer raids in Zululand.

NEW YORK, June 3.—A special to the Tribune from London says the uncertainty with regard to recent operations in South Africa is causing a good deal of uneasiness in this country. It is believed that owing to a recent warning from General Kitchener as to giving news to the public the home officials have suppressed almost all the news he has forwarded.

Meanwhile the daily lists of casualties are anxiously studied, but these lists do not fully denote the actual number of deaths of British soldiers caused by the war. At the present moment all the military hospitals in the United Kingdom are crowded with patients, a large number of whom are suffering from enteric fever, contracted in South Africa.

LONDON, June 3.—The war office is making no effort to allay the public uneasiness occasioned by the scantiness of the news from South Africa. Nothing has yet come through to illuminate the Vlakfontein affair, the only despatch on the subject since the first official announcement being a three line message from Lord Kitchener issued this morning, giving the names of three additional officers killed.

Details just received of the relief of Zeerust, Transvaal, May 22, by General Methuen, show the town was besieged practically for several months and that its food supply was short.

A despatch from Pretoria announces that the constabulary have captured Abram Malan, son-in-law of the late General Joubert. Malan was an energetic, progressive politician before the war, and since it began he had been very active against the British and had filled several important commands, including that of Pietersburg, until the British occupied the place.

WILLOWMORE, Cape Colony, June 2.—Commandant Sheeper, with 700 men, attacked Willomore yesterday (Saturday), but was beaten off after nine hours of hard fighting.

LONDON, June 3.—The war office made the following announcement tonight: "All the information received from Lord Kitchener respecting recent engagements in South Africa, has been communicated to the public."

CAPE TOWN, June 3.—Jamestown is threatened by Fouche's commando.

## NARROWLY ESCAPED LYNCHING.

PITTSBURG, Pa., June 3.—Benj. Setty, alias Watson, aged 28 years, narrowly escaped lynching at the hands of an infuriated mob of 500 citizens of McKeesport, Pa., this morning. Setty is alleged to have assaulted a four-year-old daughter of Thomas Sullivan. The police were forced to use their maces to keep the crowd while Setty was escorted to the police station. The child is in an unconscious condition and fears are entertained that she will not recover. Great excitement still prevails in McKeesport, and the police are keeping a strict watch on all streets surrounding the prison, lest a mob should be formed to break into the place.

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DELEGATES

LONDON, June 3.—The visiting delegates of the New York Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Choate received a number of members of the London Chamber of Commerce tonight at Claridge's hotel and conferred with them upon various topics. The lord mayor was present, as well as Lord Brassey, Albert G. Sandelan and Sheriff Lawrence.

The Americans have declined invitations to dinner extended by the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and the American Chamber of Commerce in Paris.

## SEEMS RATHER EASY.

BOSTON, June 3.—Sophie Maloof, the young Syrian girl who eight months ago ran away from one cousin to marry another, was this week married to the one from whom she fled, her former marriage having been annulled by both church and state. Her maiden name was Sophie Maloof, and when she eloped she became Mrs. Jacob Maloof. Now she is Mrs. Joseph Maloof, and everyone seems satisfied. Her first marriage was annulled on the ground that her parents had not consented to it; that she was under age, and that her husband was her cousin.


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## OTTAWA.

### Prize List of the Dominion Artillery Association Just Issued.

### Building Operations at a Stand Still Through Strike — Reduction in Post Office Money Order Rates.

OTTAWA, June 3.—The first course of instruction at the Dominion School of Musketry is to be opened at Rockcliffe ranges on July 1st. Thirty officers and non-commissioners will take the course. They will live under canvas for six weeks and undergo thoroughly practical training under Col. Cartwright.

The prize list of the Dominion Artillery Association for the season commencing July 1st has been issued. In connection with the general efficiency competition of field batteries, the first prize is a cup presented by the governor general and $40. There are four other prizes in connection with the general efficiency competitios. For batteries at Deseronto camp the list of prizes for fire discipline and practise, horse drill and driving, and gun laying is quite extensive, besides a number of individual prizes. Simfiarly at gun practice on the Isle of Orleans, from August 19th to 24th, the association has not been lacking in offering financial encouragement, prizes of $400, each being offered in the forty pounder competition, and in the five inch Howitzer competition.

Ottawa is in the midst of labor difficulties, and as a result building operations are completely at a stand still. Two hundred carpenters, 235 machinists and woodworkers, struck this morning for shorter hours and higher pay. Tinsmiths and machinists have been out for some days. The plasterers got their demands Saturday.

Ex-Mayor Robertson of St. John confers with Premier Laurier and Hon. Mr. Blair today on the St. John drydock matter. Mr. Robertson would not say as to the particular feature of the project he discussed with the ministers, but it is understood he desires some modifications in the terms under which the dominion subsidy may be earned.

To meet the competition of express companies in handling money orders, the P. O. department has had to reduce its tariff on post office orders, making it uniform with that of its competitors.

The census bureau warns the commissioners and enumerators of the risk they run in giving out information.

The Ottawa Board of Trade tonight considered an important report of the council on the subject of state-owned cables and it was unanimously decided to send the report to every board of trade and chamber of commerce throughout the empire, asking their co-operation to promote the movement.

Hon. David Mills left for Boston today, whence he will sail on Wednesday for England to represent Canada as the conference of delegates of the colonies with the law officers of the crown on the subject of the re-organization of the judicial committee.

Sir Louis Davies, Hon. Mr. Fielding and Hon. Mr. Blair will be fellow passengers of Mr. Mills across the Atlantic. They leave for Boston tomorrow.

It is currently reported that the object of Sir Louis Davies' visit to England is to make his calling and election sure to the position of Canadian representative on the judicial committee. It is by no means certain that he is sure of the plum of the Canadian law lord, as the majority of the cabinet favor Hon. Edward Blake. Sir Louis will in the meantime take the vacancy on the supreme court bench in the hope that the greater billet will eventually become his.

Telegrams of protest from officers who have served in South Africa continue to reach the militia department respecting the recent promotions. One officer has wired all the ministers, but he is clearly out of count, as immediately on his arrival in South Africa he said good bye to the Royal Canadians and took an appointment in the imperial service. The militia department will in a few days promulgate a scheme of gratuities for service in South Africa. The amounts to be given to the men and officers vary. In the case of the former, from £1 to £5, and in the case of officers range up to £100.

## CHARGED WITH BLACKMAIL.

WILTON, N. H., June 3.—In the arrest of George F. Pyne of Temple this afternoon, the claim is made that a remarkable attempt at blackmail was checked. The accuser of Pyne is Harvey H. Whiting, the milk contractor, and as the result of a preliminary hearing this afternoon, Pyne has gone to jail in default of $3,000, bound over until the superior court meets in September. Pyne was arrested as he was about to take the train for Boston. He said he was going to Brockton to get a job on the street cars. At the hearing Mr. Whiting said that on May 13 he received an unsigned letter demanding that 700 ten dollar bills be put in a letter, which in turn was to be placed in a certain post office box on the road leading to the Old County farm. The letter made the threat that if the money was not sent, something would happen to Mr. Whiting or his family. The money was to be left before May 20. On the 20th another letter was received by Mr. Whiting, stating that if the money was not left by the 31st he would be shot. Mr. Whiting employed Deputy Sheriff Heath and Officer Dodge to watch the post office box, but no one came to claim the letter Mr. Whiting left each time. Mr. Whiting said he did not know Pyne nor his family. Suspicion, however, turned toward him and the arrest was made. At the time Pyne made the statement that the officer had the wrong man. The hearing was before Justice Richard Moore. Pyne pleaded not guilty and offered to rebut Mr. Whiting's testimony, and he was held for trial. Pyne is 25 years of age and has been living with Thos. Morrow at the Old County farm.

## SALISBURY.

### Dedication of the New Baptist Church on Sunday—Large Financial Contributions.

SALISBURY, N. B., June 3.—The services in connection with the dedication of the new Baptist church at this place, yesterday, were largely attended. The seating capacity of the building at all the services was much overtaxed, in consequence of which quite a number were forced to remain outside. The clergymen present were Revs. D. Hutchinson of Moncton, E. B. McLatchy of Sackville, Revs. Mr. Brown of Havelock, E. C. and W. W. Corey, Abram Perry and J. E. Tiner.

The dedication sermon, which was a very impressive and able address, was delivered by Rev. D. Hutchinson, pastor of the Moncton Baptist church. Rev. Milton Addison of Surrey, Albert Co., preached an excellent sermon in the afternoon, and Rev. E. B. McLatchy, pastor of the Sackville Baptist church, held the closest attention of the large congregation in the evening. The choir, composed of some sixteen well trained voices, furnished an excellent programme, which was very favorably commented upon by all the lovers of music present. The fine choir of the church was ably assisted by Miss Blanche O'Brien, alto, and Joel Steeves, tenor, two soloists from the Moncton Baptist church choir; Clyde Steadman, tenor, leader of the Sackville Baptist church choir; Miss Eva Chapman, alto, of Dover, and Miss Mackie of Moncton, Miss Crandall acted as organist. Two of the finest numbers in the musical programme was a male quartette in the afternoon by Messrs. Joel Steeves and Clyde Steadman, tenor, and Harry Crandall and Noble Sharpe, bassos, and the duet and quartette in the evening, by Miss O'Brien and Mr. Steeves of Moncton in the duet, and Miss Steadman and Miss Crandall making up the quartette. Miss O'Brien, Mrs. J. W. Carter and Miss Annie Lewis were also heard in some excellent solo work.

As the cash offerings and pledges during the day amounted to over five hundred dollars, it was generally conceded that Rev. Mr. Gordon's mantle had fallen on Rev. Milton Addison.

The little church, with a seating capacity of between three and four hundred, was erected and furnished at a cost of about three thousand dollars, and is a very handsome and up to date structure and a great credit to the place.

## ALBERT NOTES.

ALBERT, N. B., June 2.—The street leading from Albert to the railway station is being repaired under the superintendency of Commissioner Stuart. The roadway is being widened and a good plank sidewalk will be laid, adding much to the comfort and convenience of the public, as well as to the appearance of the village.

The attention of the board of health is hereby called to a pond of stagnant water that lies between the blacksmith shops of J. E. Boyle and Charles McAnuity, which is calculated to breed disease and endanger the lives of the citizens of the village.

Warren W. Jones, proprietor of the Globe Hotel, is erecting a building 22x22 feet, two stories high, to be used as sample rooms and a tenement house.

Manning M. Tingley is having a lawn made around his residence and the painters and paper hangers are at work on the interior, and when the fence and outside are tastefully painted, as he purposes having done, "Glenmere Cottage" will be one of the cosiest and prettiest residences in the village.

A movement is on foot to have the stores in Albert closed at six p. m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings of each week during the summer. This is a movement in the right direction.

Ezra Stiles & Son are adding another department to their already extensive business, having bought the stock in trade of James E. Boyle, blacksmith. They will put two good mechanics in charge. John A. Moore of the I. C. R. shops, of Moncton, is to be foreman. Mr. Boyle is soon going west.

W. H. Newcomb, who recently purchased a large warehouse from Wm. M. Calhoun, is having it fitted up into tenements to accommodate five families. I. C. Prescott is preparing for the erection of a large residence this summer. W. A. West has secured the contract for the erection of the Methodist parsonage here. Evelleth Fullerton is building a two story house on Forestdale street, near "High Rock," from which there is a commanding view of the "Five Fathoms," Grindstone Island, and the Bay of Fundy.

## BURGLARS AND DYNAMITE.

BELFAST, Me., June 3.—The entire front of the store of Merton Sweet at East Knox, containing the post office, was blown off with dynamite this morning, and the building ignited from the explosion, was totally burned. In addition to the mail matter in the office there was a large loss. The building was fully insured. It is supposed to have been the work of burglars. The safe, however, was intact. Few particulars have been received here as to the affair.

HARTFORD, Conn., June 3.—Eighteen hundred of the men who have been on strike here returned to work in six machine shops this morning, the companies having granted the demands for a nine hour day with ten hours' pay, while agreeing to recognize local shop committees but not the union committees.


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## FREDERICTON.

### The York Election Declared Void and Mr. Gibson Unseated.

### Representative Liberals and Conservatives Agree to Put Down Bribery and Corruption—Central Fire Insurance Co.

FREDERICTON, N. B., June 2.—The death occurred Saturday evening of Dr. Harry Gregory, after an illness of only a few days, with acute Bright's disease. He was a son of the late Dr. Thomas Gregory of Fredericton, and a nephew of Judge Gregory. Deceased, who was thirty-six years of age, graduated M. D. at the University of New York and took up the practise of his profession at Centreville, subsequently removing to Stanley, where he married. Later he moved to Prince William, and a little over a year ago came to this city, where he had built up a successful practice. He leaves a widow, one child, mother and brother John, at Antigonish, and sister, Mrs. E. H. Allen, of Moncton. The funeral will take place at 2 o'clock on Monday.

An interesting and largely attended ordination service was held at the cathedral this forenoon, when Rev. N. H. Gillies was ordained priest, and F. M. C. Bedell of Musquash was ordained deacon. Rev. Mr. Gillies will immediately be appointed rector of Cambridge, Queens county, and Mr. Bedell will assist Dean Partridge at the cathedral, which office has most acceptably been filled by Mr. Gillies for the past year. Rev. W. J. Wilkinson of Bay du Vin assisted at the ordination service.

The officers who have been taking a special course at the Military School here have completed their training and examinations and left for their homes Saturday. They are: Lt. A. F. Crelly, 71st, St. Stephen; Lt. W. D. White, 67th, Centreville; Lt. T. M. Wright, 71st, Fredericton; Lt. A. W. Foster, 93rd, Springhill; Lt. R. W. Graham, 78th, New Glasgow; Lt. W. W. Melville, Brighton Engineers, Bath; Lt. A. C. Carr, Brighton Engineers, Hartland; Lt. E. B. Prichard, 75th, Doaktown.

Lt. Cols. Loggie and Dunbar are very desirous of procuring a rifle range for the use of local marksmen. Two recently selected have not been approved by the militia department and on Friday Major Weatherbee was here looking at another site at Gibson, less than two miles from the drill hall. If a good range can be obtained adjacent to the city, rifle shooting would be very popular here, where there are many crack shots.

The Oddfellows of Fredericton are to run an excursion to Houlton on July 4th.

William J. Betts, formerly of the R. C. R. I. here, and who served with his company in the Yukon, was killed on a railway at Somerville, Mass., a few days ago.

The recent agitation by the W. C. T. U. for the appointment of a Scott Act inspector, resulted in the police officers receiving instructions a few days ago to report all known violations of the act. The outcome is that last night summons were served upon fifteen alleged vendors of the ardent, to appear before Police Magistrate Marsh.

FREDERICTON, N. B., June 3.—The court for the trial of the York county election petition met at ten o'clock this morning at the county court house, Chief Justice Tuck and Judge Hanington presiding. The respondent, Alex. Gibson, jr., did not put in an appearance, although his counsel had in the preliminary proceedings put in an affidavit of Mr. Gibson that his personal presence at the trial was essential, and sought to have the trial postponed on that account. Rev. Dr. McLeod, the petitioner, was present with his counsel, O. S. Crocket and H. F. McLeod, and A. J. Gregory appeared as counsel for the respondent. Wm. P. Taylor acted as clerk of the court, and other legal gentlemen present were C. E. A. Simonds, T. J. Carter, J. W. McCready, J. S. Campbell and V. Magee.

Mr. Crocket stated that the petitioner claimed two things which it was proposed to prove; that there had been corrupt practices at the election on the part of the agents and with the knowledge of the respondent and sufficient to void the election, and that a majority of the legal votes polled at the election were polled for the petitioner, who was also a candidate.

Mr. Gregory then addressed the court and said that he had to make certain admissions on behalf of the respondent. He found on making inquiry that there were certain corrupt practices on the part of friends of the respondent sufficient to void the election.

He admitted that on polling day dinners were given and provided by agents and other persons on behalf of the respondent, though without his actual knowledge or consent, at many of the polling places in the district to voters or persons about to vote at the said election.

And that conveyances were hired by agents or other persons on behalf of the respondent, though without his knowledge or consent, to convey voters to and from the polls;

And that these acts were corrupt practices within the meaning of the Dominion Election Act of 1900, and sufficiently prevailed to warrant the court in declaring the election void and the seat vacant.

Mr. Crocket said that in view of the admissions made by the respondent the petitioner would offer no evidence in support of the charge of personal corruption on the part of the respondent, or for a claim of seat.

Mr. Gregory stated to the court that in view of what Mr. Crocket had just said the respondent would offer no evidence as to the charge of corrupt practices on the part of the respondent.

The chief justice stated that in view of the admissions made by the counsel for the respondent, there was but one course open to the court, and that was to declare the election held in York county on Nov. 7th last void, and the seat vacant.

The court then adjourned.

Several days ago after conferences an agreement was arrived at between representatives of both the liberal and liberal-conservative parties in this county, and submitted to Rev. Dr. McLeod, to suppress all corrupt practices at future elections. The agreement is as follows:

We, the undersigned, believing in the desirability of pure elections, and speaking so far as we have authority for the liberal and liberal-conservative parties in York county, hereby agree that in all elections in the county they will refrain from the use of illegal and corrupt methods, and that they will use their influence to the utmost to prevent their respective parties from using such methods.

Dated this twenty-eighth day of May, 1901.

(Signed.) Fred P. Thompson, E. Byron Winslow, Willard Kitchen, Jas. H. Crocket, W. T. Whitehead, C. E. A. Simonds, James S. Neill.

Mr. Campbell, M. P. P., gives his unqualified support to the above agreement. Alex. Gibson, jr., has written a letter to Rev. Dr. McLeod in which he takes very strong ground upon the bribery question and pledges himself to use his endeavors and influence to stop the use of corrupt practices in future election contests in this county.

Mr. Gibson agreed to pay all costs incurred by Rev. Dr. McLeod in connection with the election petition.

At a meeting of the Central Fire Insurance Co. on Saturday a resolution was passed to take immediate and effective steps for the closing up of the concerns of the corporation, and dividing the capital and profits among the shareholders in proportion to their respective interests.

A young man named King, belonging to Harvey, was brought to the hospital last night and underwent an operation this morning by Drs. McLearn and Atherton, as the result of a gunning accident yesterday. He was out shooting crows and the gun missed fire when snapped. Mr. King placed the butt of the gun against his abdomen to examine it, when it went off and the force of the recoil ruptured him.

St. Dunstan's church is to be further beautified by the addition of handsome stained glass windows. Three memorial windows of pretty design are already in the church, and some time ago stained glass lights for all the remaining windows were ordered. These have arrived and will be put in this week.

## CURFEW LAW KILLED.

PORTLAND, Me., June 3.—At the city government meeting tonight the curfew law, which had received two readings at a former session, was killed. An interesting feature of the meeting was a speech on this matter made by Rev. Mr. Malvern, who said he was in favor of a curfew law and its rigid enforcement; but he also believed in a similar ordinance that would compel the mothers to be at home at the specified hour to care for and entertain their children, instead of being away attending club meetings, etc.

## ADVANCE IN RATES.

BOSTON, June 3.—The Dominion Atlantic Railroad Co. and the Yarmouth Steamship Co. have simultaneously put back their rates rates to what they were before the rate war, the increase to go into effect tomorrow. This is taken by steamship people here as bearing out the story that the two companies have consolidated. For about a year they have been cutting rates on both passenger and freight service. The passenger round trip to Yarmouth has been $3.50. This is now doubled and the single trip placed at $4. The freight rates also go up about 50 per cent. The increase applies to all points inland. It is expected that at the meeting of the Yarmouth directors at Yarmouth next week the change will be announced.