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ATE OF IMPROVEMENTS.
NOTICE
French, Little Bobs, Baden
eral White, Star, and
in the Victoria Milling
Renfrew District.
red, Dagaboo Creek, Port San
that, I, H. E. Newton, F. M.
of, and as agent for R. T.
of, C. No. 37490, intend
to the date hereof, to apply
for a certificate of in-
for the purpose of obtaining
it of the above claims,
take notice that action un-
may be commenced before
of such certificate of in-
twelfth day of November.

\$1.00 PER YEAR, STRICTLY IN ADVANCE, TO ANY ADDRESS IN
CANADA, UNITED STATES, OR GREAT BRITAIN

ORGANIZING FOR THE INVESTIGATION

OME MEMBERS OF CHAMBERLAIN'S COMMITTEE

Work of Inquiring into the Condition of
British Trade to Commence in
February.

London, Dec. 17.—It was announced today that the following have already accepted positions on Joseph Chamberlain's commission of experts which is to enquire into the condition of British trade and report thereon, with the object of drawing up a tariff reform measure: Charles Booth, of Liverpool, former president of the Royal Statistical Society; Sir Vincent Caillard, formerly financial representative of Great Britain, Holland and Belgium in Constantinople; Sir Arthur Ewen, vice-president of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers; Sir Wm. T. Lewis, president of the South Wales Institute of Engineers; Alfred Mosely, who has been sent on two committees to the United States to inquire into trade and industrial conditions; Sir Arthur Ewen, Chamberlain's noble, an ordinance expert; Hon. Chas. A. Parsons, proprietor of large electrical and engineering works; Sir Walter Pearce, agent-general of Natal; C. A. Pearson, the well known newspaper proprietor; Sir Chas. Tennant, chairman of the Union Bank of Scotland; Sir Alfred Jones, president of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce; Sir Arthur Ewen, president of the Liverpool shipowners.

A number of members of parliament also accepted positions on the committee. They include the Right Honourable Henry Chaplin, former president of the board of agriculture, and Wm. Henry Grenfell, member of the Thames Conservancy board; Sir Alexander Henderson, member of the Stock Exchange; Sir Alfred Hickman, member of the council of the Iron and Steel Institute. Other members of the committee are: Charles Allen, member of the House of Commons; Edward Burnidge, director of department stores; J. J. Candlish, glass manufacturer; W. H. Mitchell, wool manufacturer; J. A. Waring, jun., furniture manufacturer; J. Howard Quill, a builder and contractor.

The secretary of the committee will be Wm. A. S. Hewins, director of the London School of Economics and political science, and a teacher of modern economic history in the University of London, etc.

Mr. Hewins will be assisted by a large staff of experts and statisticians. It is intended that the committee shall meet twice a day, commencing about the 2nd of February.

NINETEEN TRUE BILLS
Returned by Omaha Grand Jury—Senator and Ex-Senator Indicted.

Omaha, Dec. 17.—The United States grand jury today rendered a report to the court returning nineteen true bills. These include indictments against United States Senator Chas. Dietrich for alleged illegal leasing of a building to the government to be used as a post office; Postmaster General Leonard W. Dwyer for alleged embezzlement; Daniel Grims, of Bassett, Neb., for alleged pecuniary interest in a Nebraska state enterprise; former State Senator Elliot Howe, of conspiracy to bribe a United States Senator; Frederick John S. Mitchell, of Ashland, Neb., charging him with illegal use of postal stamps; William M. Irwin, on charge of acting as agent for the Trust Company, administrators of the estate of A. D. Benjamin, Toronto, to pay to the Quebec Bank \$55,817.

The bank's total debts are about \$70,000 at the time of Mr. Benjamin's death, two years ago, and the bank officials claimed that the administrators of the estate in Canada may keep pace with changed conditions and the needs of our shores, but that Canada's market may be properly protected from specialized and other industries of foreign countries which use the Canadian market as a dumping ground; that Canada's resources may be developed and Canadian industries built up, and that the surplus proceeds of the Canadian market may be supplied from British rather than from foreign sources.

NEW SOUTH WALES WHEAT.
Over Eighteen Million Bushels Available for Export.

Sydney, N. S. W., Dec. 18.—The official estimate of the wheat yield of New South Wales is 28,570,000 bushels, an increase of 2,000,000 bushels on the estimate for the year 1901. About 18,500,000 bushels are available for export.

THE PRINCE OBJECTS.

Resents Interference of Foreigners in the Internal Affairs of Russia—Case of States.

Paris, Dec. 17.—Prince Metchersky, of Russia, in a letter to the Gazette, sharply criticises the interference of foreign nations in the national affairs of Russia, citing particularly the case of the United States. The Prince says: "It is for example, public opinion in Russia should be moved in behalf of the negroes in America to the point of condemning the American officials. I suppose those attacked would say, 'you must not mix in our internal affairs.' That would be a strictly logical answer, just as much so as the answer made by the people of Russia."

The Prince says that M. Von Plehve, the Russian minister of the interior, has been particularly maligned. He says: "If Minister Von Plehve be guilty, the Czar, who is responsible for the acts of his minister, is equally guilty." He deeply deplores the calumny he has put upon his country, explains the Russian view of the Jewish massacres at Kishinev, and praises the conduct of M. Von Plehve.

SHOT BY DETECTIVES.
Father and Son Killed in Fight Which Followed Attempt to Arrest the Former.

Los Angeles, Dec. 18.—Traded to their beds and brought to lay within the walls of a small room, Joseph, aged 50, and Louis Choloser, aged 22, father and son, have been slain in a battle with Detectives Hawley, Murphy and Conroy. The three officers escaped without injury. Both of the Cholosers were killed instantly.

They were received by Chief of Police Eklon from Equality, Ill., requesting the arrest of Joseph Choloser on the charge of obtaining money under false pretences. There was no charge against young Choloser.

Detectives immediately began a search, killing Joseph Choloser instantly. The fire from Louis Choloser's revolver became so hot that the officers retreated to the hall. The young man followed them, firing his weapon at Detective Murphy. Before he could take aim for a second shot, Murphy and Conroy fired, killing him instantly.

MORGAN'S PROTEST.
Claims Action of States Regarding Colombia is Contrary to Laws of Nations.

Washington, Dec. 18.—In the Senate today Senator Morgan introduced a resolution which declares the President has no right to wage war against any foreign power without the consent of Congress. The resolution is in effect a protest against the intervention of the United States in preventing Colombia from annexing the Panama Canal zone, which is contrary to the law of neutrality and the law of nations.

MUST PAY CLAIM.
Quebec Bank Will Receive \$95,817 From the Estate of A. D. Benjamin.

Toronto, Dec. 18.—The master in ordinary this morning ordered the Toronto District Court to pay to the Quebec Bank \$95,817. The bank's claim against the estate of A. D. Benjamin, Toronto, to pay to the Quebec Bank \$55,817.

THE MANUFACTURERS
Declare Association Is Non-Political—Favors Revision of Canadian Tariff.

Toronto, Dec. 18.—The executive of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association has declared itself during the past few days in favor of an early and thorough revision of the Canadian tariff. Such revision is necessary in order that Canadian industry in Canada may keep pace with changed conditions and the needs of our shores, but that Canada's market may be properly protected from specialized and other industries of foreign countries which use the Canadian market as a dumping ground; that Canada's resources may be developed and Canadian industries built up, and that the surplus proceeds of the Canadian market may be supplied from British rather than from foreign sources.

NEW SOUTH WALES WHEAT.
Over Eighteen Million Bushels Available for Export.

WILL FIGHT TO BITTER END.

Colombians Ready For War Should Visit of Reyes to State Prove Unsuccessful.

Colon, Dec. 17.—The United States Cruiser Atlanta arrived here last night from the Gulf of Darien. Early in the morning of December 15th the Atlanta sighted a small schooner in the gulf, and ordered her to the western shore, where the schooner attempted to hide behind an island. Lieut. Perrill, of the Atlanta, was ordered to board her, and thereupon a whaleboat was lowered. Through the courtesy of the naval officer the correspondent of the Association Press accompanied the party on the whaleboat.

It was found that the schooner had on board a hundred armed Colombian soldiers commanded by General Rafael Novo, who said General Daniel Ortiz, commander-in-chief of the Colombian forces on the Atlantic and Pacific, had a large camp a mile away on the mainland.

General Novo requested Lieut. Perrill to land and confer with General Ortiz. On the whaleboat's appearance there were repeated cries of "Viva Colombia," and there was a sudden concentration of about 150 Colombian soldiers on the beach. General Ortiz appeared on the beach when Lieut. Perrill went ashore. The general insisted that Lieut. Perrill should fly the Colombian flag at the bow of the whaleboat or lower the American flag at her stern because she was in Colombian waters. Lieut. Perrill replied that he did not have a Colombian flag, and he refused to lower the Stars and Stripes. General Ortiz did not insist upon his doing so, but he protested in writing against the presence of American soldiers in Colombian waters. Lieut. Perrill accepted the protest, and conveyed it to Commander Turner, who landed it to Rear-Admiral Goddard on his arrival here.

GUARANTEED BONDS
GIVEN BY COMPANY
Legislation Necessary to Confirm Acceptance, But Value of Securities is Unquestionable.

Ottawa, Dec. 18.—The Grand Trunk Railway Company has deposited \$1,000,000 of guaranteed bonds as security for the carrying out of the agreement entered into last session between the government and the Grand Trunk Pacific, subject to the ratification of their shareholders at a general meeting.

DREW'S THANKS
For Contributions Sent to Aid Bears in Neighborhood of Kopy's Sidings.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—Peter Van Vilsingen has received a letter from General Charles R. Dewet, acknowledging the receipt of the Grand Trunk Pacific bonds for the neighborhood of Kopy's Sidings, Orange River Colony, "accept," writes General Dewet, "my thanks for your services on behalf of our poor ruined people, and also to those who enabled you to send this sum, and hence the bank filed no claim. Later they learned that a dividend of 20 per cent. had been paid, and at once instituted proceedings to rank as creditors, and also asked its portion of the 20 per cent. dividend, which claim amounted to \$95,817. The master in ordinary finds for the bank on the ground of resistance to claims on impoverished and untenable grounds by the administrators.

IN A FLYING MACHINE.
Invention of Ohio Man Proved Successful During a Strong Wind.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 18.—The trial of a flying machine made yesterday near Kitty Hawk, N. C., by Wilbur & Wright, of Dayton, Ohio, was a complete success. The machine flew twenty-three miles in the face of a wind blowing at the registered rate of 21 miles an hour, and was gracefully descended to the earth at the spot selected by the man in the car as a suitable landing place. The machine was no balloon attachment, but gets its force from propellers worked by a small engine.

TO NOMINATE CANDIDATE.
Liberal Convention Will Be Held at Nelson on January 12th.

Nelson, Dec. 18.—The Liberal Association held a meeting last night at which it was decided to call a convention to nominate a candidate for Kootenay riding in the federal elections. The convention is to be held here on January 12th. A vote of confidence in A. W. Gallier, the present member, was passed unanimously.

"NONSENSE"
Berlin, Dec. 18.—The report published by the Journal of Paris, that the Princess Charlotte, who is suffering from cancer, and that the verdict of the physicians has been that the Princess is suffering from "nonsense," is officially denied as "nonsense," the Princess is not even ill.

FLORA'S CAPTAIN WAS HEARD TODAY

AT COURT-MARTIAL
HELD ON THE GRAFTON

Evidence of Navigating Officer Lieut. Grant—Several Other Witnesses Also Examined.

(From Friday's Daily.)
The evidence for the prosecution in the case of Captain Caspar J. Baker and Navigating Lieutenant H. M. S. Flora is being tried by a court-martial aboard the Grafton for the stranding of H. M. S. Flora on the coast of the Bay of Biscay on the morning of the 10th of December. The defence will be heard.

On the court remaining yesterday afternoon, Lieut. Lewis, of H. M. S. Flora, was first called. He was shown the clause in the regulations governing the closing of the helm in the event of a gale, and he was asked if it was his duty to close the helm in the event of a gale. He replied, yes.

Witness was then asked what the standing orders were governing the closing of the different groups of doors. Witness replied, "A door had to be closed by the order of the commanding officer, and it was his duty to see that the doors were closed." On the conclusion of Lieut. Lewis's evidence Commodore Goodrich remarked that the witness had said that the article in the regulations governing the closing of the doors was "to be closed by the order of the commanding officer, and it was his duty to see that the doors were closed." He then asked the witness if he was sure that the doors were closed.

On reconvening witness was asked if he was sure that the doors were closed. He replied, "I am sure that the doors were closed." He was then asked if he was sure that the doors were closed. He replied, "I am sure that the doors were closed." He was then asked if he was sure that the doors were closed. He replied, "I am sure that the doors were closed."

Witness was then asked the rate of the tide at the time of the stranding. He replied, "The tide was two and three-quarters hours after high water and on the ebb tide." He was then asked if he was sure that the tide was two and three-quarters hours after high water and on the ebb tide. He replied, "I am sure that the tide was two and three-quarters hours after high water and on the ebb tide."

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TWICE-A-WEEK EDITION
VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1903.

Point beacon for the beacon on Base flats he starboarded 15 degrees to get in the middle of the channel and shape his course to clear Ship peninsula. When Village Point beacon was sighted, witness thought that he had passed the beacon. Knowing as he did that the ship was going ten knots since 7.45 and that eight bells had been struck, witness concluded that the ship had run the two miles between Union wharf and Village reef.

Lieut. Grant then described the appearance of Base flat beacon. It is a pile beacon with a white disc. The beacon sighted appeared as a black post on a five feet high wall, something white on top. Witness never remembered during the time he served under Capt. Baker the appearance of Base flat beacon. He was quite satisfied about the position of the helm was hard over, and the ship would take some time to get under way. The beacon, according to standing orders, was sighted a few minutes past 8. The reckoning was made from the time the ship was a cable off the end of the Union wharf.

Witness was then asked what position this reckoning would place the ship in 8 o'clock. He replied, "I am sure that the ship was in the middle of the channel." He was then asked if he was sure that the ship was in the middle of the channel. He replied, "I am sure that the ship was in the middle of the channel."

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which he has the honor to command, I feel most keenly that my professional ability should now be under trial. I have commanded eight other ships, and in no case has my ability to do in all circumstances in the most trying circumstances, and also in the most excellent and cheerful work of the captains and officers of H. M. S. Grafton and Egeria, which has brought about such a satisfactory result.

This closed the case, and the court was then cleared for the consideration of a verdict. After the verdict, as given above, was rendered the court dissolved.

MAKING GOOD TIME.
It Is Believed Steamer J. T. Hutchinson Will Succeed in Reaching Open Water.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 18.—The steamer J. T. Hutchinson, which left Sault Ste. Marie on the last stage of its record-breaking trip through the ice from Lake Superior to Buffalo, has not been sighted at Point Pelee at 2 o'clock this afternoon. A message from Colchester, Ont., says that the Hutchinson and the ice-crushers Pleasure and Prometheus passed there at 9.30, and were then making about three miles an hour through the ice. The weather is soft and favorable, and it is thought that the steamer will reach open water before to-night.

STILL HOPEFUL.
Optimistic Feeling in Russian Official Circles Regarding Outcome of Negotiations With Japan.

London, Dec. 18.—A special dispatch from St. Petersburg says: "Optimistic anticipations of a pacific solution of the Russo-Japanese conflict are still entertained in the leading Russian official circles, in spite of some slight uneasiness on the part of the public and alarmist press reports."

A SUGGESTION.
St. Petersburg, Dec. 18.—The opinion has been expressed in official circles that there is no reason why Japan, if in a sense satisfied with Russia's reply, should break off the negotiations, as the reply is not so counter-proposals. It is suggested as an expedient in case no agreement can be reached that an arrangement might be made to maintain the present status for a number of years.

TWO HUNDRED A DAY.
Alleged to Have Been Stolen by Employee—'Needed a Little Ready Money.'

Chicago, Dec. 18.—While working on a salary of \$9 a week, Gus A. Grigby has robbed his employers at a rate of \$200 per day, according to Manager David Rose, of M. J. Berglund's store. Grigby is now in the hands of the police, and his employers are seeking to recover their losses.

CLERKS IN REVOLT.
Made Demonstration Because Bill Affecting Their Interests Was Not Discussed in Chamber.

Rome, Dec. 18.—The clerks in the minister's office were engaged in a demonstration this morning which threatened to develop into a riot or strike, requiring the intervention of the ministers and under-secretary before the clerks were dispersed. The disturbance was due to the fact that the minister had not discussed in the ministry of public works was not discussed in the chamber of deputies.

KILLED AND ROBBED ONE MAN AND WOUNDED ANOTHER.
Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 18.—Three young white men, masked, committed three hold-ups here last night. They first entered the office of the Procter Coal Co., and after looting it, they went to the office of the Knoxville Railway Co., where they looted the safe and killed one man and wounded another. The third robbery was on Clinch street, where Chas. Rogers was shot in the leg. He escaped.

ADVISES PROMPT ACTION.
A. B. Aylesworth Urges Confederation of Newfoundland, Labrador and Greenland With Canada.

Toronto, Dec. 18.—A. B. Aylesworth, K. C., one of Canada's Alaskan boundary commissioners, speaking at the Literary Society of McMaster University, urged prompt action to be taken to secure the confederation of Newfoundland, Labrador and Greenland with Canada. He said that the history of the Alaskan boundary should be a warning to Canada to remove the possibilities of similar questions on the eastern coast by immediate action.

WILL MEET MINISTER.
A. Morrison, M. P., and A. E. Woods Visit Ottawa on Railway Business.

Ottawa, Dec. 18.—Anlay Morrison, M. P., and A. E. Woods, M. P., arrived in the city today. They are here on business with the railway department and will have to wait until Monday to meet Hon. Mr. Flinn, who is here in the Maritime provinces, and who is expected to return on Saturday night.

PROPOSED NEW LINE.
Vancouver, Dec. 18.—A controlling interest in the proposed new line of railway has been sold to a syndicate represented here by Thomas Wilson, said to be the standard bearer of the line. J. Hill, to supply power to a new line from Westminster to Vancouver. The amount paid for the line is something over 50 per cent, is \$32,000.

The present average depth of coal mines is about 200 feet, but is increasing at an average of 15 feet a year.