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The Victoria Times.

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CANADA AND THE ALASKA BOUNDARY

ALLEGED TO SHOW THREATENING SPIRIT

United States Naval Coaling Station Is to Be Erected at Dutch Harbor.

Washington, May 26.—Admiral Dewey, as president of the general board, has made a report to Secretary Moody, of the United States navy, recommending the immediate establishment of a coaling station at Dutch Harbor, Alaska, and the erection there of a coal depot with an initial capacity of 5,000 tons. The estimated cost of the work is about $51,000. The President has approved the plan and preliminary steps in the work have been taken already.

Rear-Admiral Bradford, in his report recommending this new coaling station, said: "Attention is also invited to the present great political question of the day, viz., the settlement of the boundary between the territory of Alaska and the Dominion of Canada. There is plenty of evidence going to show that the spirit of Canada on this matter may be considered as threatening. Between Alaska and the continental limits of the United States is located the domain of a foreign country. The territory separating Alaska has good harbors and ample anterior waters. It certainly constitutes a strong reason why the sinews of war should be placed at this point."

STUDENT TROUBLES

Brought Up in the Italian Chamber—Minister's Reply.

Rome, May 26.—The bad feeling on th part of the Italians against Austrians, which has been latent here since the Austrian occupation of Northern Italy, in spite of the twenty-one years' alliance between the two countries has been revived by an incident which has just occurred at the university of Innsbruch, where a number of students of Italian nationality but Austrian subjects were set upon and beaten by the Austrian students. The Italians in Italy as well as those subject to Austria are urging the institution of an Italian university at Trieste.

The incident has had an echo in the chamber of deputies. Replying to questions on the subject, Minister Barcoli said the matter was one concerning the international affairs of Austria, and did not concern Italian subjects. The government could not intervene because subjects of Austria, although of Italian origin, were being maltreated in their own country.

NANAIMO'S CELEBRATION.

Lacrosse, Baseball and Regatta Among Events on the Programme.

Nanaimo, May 26.—The celebration of Victoria Day here yesterday was voted a huge success. Large crowds came from Ladysmith, Cumberland and Vancouver. After the regatta the crowd wended their way to the Caledonia grounds to witness the championship baseball game between Nanaimo and New Westminster. The game was the finest and fastest ever played here, Nanaimo completely shutting out the visitors; score, Nanaimo, 8; New Westminster, 0. This was followed by a lacrosse match between intermediate teams from the above places. Nanaimo was less fortunate in this, however, New Westminster defeating their opponents by a score of 8 to 2. In the evening there was a display of fireworks.

PREFERENTIAL TRADE.

Governor-General of Australia Refers to Subject in Speech From the Throne

Melbourne, May 26.—At the opening of the federal parliament to-day Governor-General Lennison remarked that the urgency of questions of domestic importance would prevent the immediate consideration of preferential trade, though the ministers regarded favorably the idea of fuller trade relations within the British Empire.

FIRE AT CUMBERLAND.

Stables Burned—Colt and Twenty-Three Mules Destroyed.

Cumberland, May 25.—The Wellington Colliery Company's stables at No. 4 mine was burned down between 5 and 6 o'clock yesterday. Twenty-three mules and a colf were destroyed, as well as harness and feed. A Chinaman left the stable a few minutes before the fire. It is thought he lighted a cigarette and threw down the match. Several of the company's men were near, but the stable being old, with much straw around, made it impossible to get out any of the mules. The loss is estimated at $4,000.

Mr. Dunsmuir arrived here early this morning, bringing with him half-a-dozen men.

SAD FATALITY.

Man Accidentally Shot While Hunting Panthers Near Parksville.

Nanaimo, May 26.—A sad mistake occurred at Parksville yesterday, as a result of which Richard Christmas was accidentally shot by W. J. Walker. It appears that the two men, who were the greatest of friends, went out hunting panthers in the vicinity yesterday morning. After proceeding some distance it was agreed that they should separate. This was accordingly done, both going different routes. After hunting for some time, Walker heard a rustle amongst the bushes, and upon looking around saw an object which he at once took for a panther crouching between the logs. Without further hesitation he raised his rifle and fired. He was horror stricken upon investigation to find he had shot Christmas just above the heart.

Christmas was at once removed to a neighboring house, but expired before medical aid could be procured. Walker is crazed with grief.

Both men were well and highly respected in this city, Christmas being the eldest son of Rev. Mr. Christmas, of Cedar District Episcopal church.

Upon receipt of the news of the tragedy Constable Stephenson, of the provincial police, left for Parksville to investigate the sad event. An inquest will, in all probability, be held to-day. The body will be brought here for interment.

NEW YORKER'S WAGER ON YACHT RACES

Thinks Shamrock Has No Chance of Winning Trophy—American Boats on Trial.

New York, May 26.—Not a possible chance for the America cup is conceded to Shamrock III. by a yacht owner and a member of the New York Yacht Club, who has wagered $1,500 to $1,000 that Reliance will win in one, two, three order.

David Barrie, Sir Thomas Lipton's commercial manager in this country, took the short end of the bet. The transaction came about through the discussion of the possibilities that the challenger has for lifting the cup at this trial. The New Yorker expressed his assurance that defeat would again be the portion of Sir Thomas Lipton. Mr. Barrie was somewhat astonished when the American made the bold assertion that Shamrock III. would not take one of the series of races, but when the offer was made to back the opinion at the odds quoted he quickly covered the money. Mr. Barrie acknowledged that the wager had been made but refused to name the member of the New York Yacht Club whose money he hopes to win.

Another Trial.

Manticock Point, May 26.—After a pretty thorough testing of Reliance and Columbia in light airs, in which the new boat certainly showed superiority, the yachting fraternity hailed with some satisfaction this morning a steady breeze of about five knots' strength, blowing in from the southeast. As a similar breeze held all day yesterday, there was hope that it would continue to-day and give the third contest between the yachts some semblance to a race. It is somewhat singular that in but few of the preliminary races and cup contests for eight years has the wind been of more than ordinary strength, and that the oldest of three boats, Columbia, has not ever raced in a breeze of over 20 knots velocity. The day from a spectators' standpoint was delightful. The sky was clear, the air cool and invigorating, and there was no indications of rain from any quarter.

The Start.

Matinicock Point, May 26.—Later.—The wind increased as the morning advanced, and at 10 o'clock had freshened to nine knots. At 10.30 it was still freshening and was hauling around to a little west of south. The three yachts were ready to get underway before 11 o'clock and about the same time the tug with the turning marks arrived off the point.

The preliminary gun was fired at noon, and fifteen minutes later the starting gun boomed forth. The starting time, unofficial, was: Reliance, 12.15:03; Columbia, 12.15:08; Constitution, 12.15:28.

FOUR PERISHED.

Fire in Apartment House in New York —Supposed to Be Work of Incendiary.

New York, May 27.—Four persons were burned to death and two others were so badly burned that it is feared they will die, in a fire that started early this morning on the top floor of the five story apartment house at 306 West 135th street. The fire, which is said to have been of incendiary origin, started in the apartment of Geo. Wendlong.

COMMITTED SUICIDE.

Milwaukee, Wis., May 27.—Alex. I. Blade, superintendent of agencies of the Esquimalt Life Assurance Co., committed suicide yesterday at the Hotel Pfiester by shooting himself in the head. His body was found last night. The cause of Mr. Blade's act is unknown.

THREE MINISTERS LEAVE THE CABINET

The Premier Relieves Two Colleagues of Their Portfolios---Hon. Mr. McInnes Tenders Resignation.

Premier Prior has dismissed Hon. D. M. Eberst, Attorney-General, and Hon. W. C. Wells, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

Provincial Secretary Hon. W. W. B McInnes has resigned.

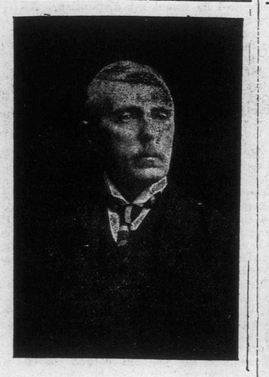
The First Minister is in turn charged with a serious offence.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

Premier Prior has anticipated the report of the special committee appointed to investigate the Columbia & Western land scandal, and yesterday afternoon he asked for the resignations of two of the ministers most intimately associated with that deal, namely, Messrs. Eberts and Wells. This step is believed to be but the prelude to stirring events which will mark the opening of the House to-day, for the two ministers concerned are not disposed to accept their degredation meekly and are preparing a counter statement with which to meet the announcement of the First Minister when the House opens.

It is expected that upon the resumption of business to-day the committee mentioned will table the result of its deliberations. The members of the committee are pledged to secrecy, but the precipitate action of Col. Prior has given further color to the rumor that they will report adversely against the government as a whole, but particularly against Messrs. Eberts and Wells. The Premier probably obtained some hint of the proposed action of the committee, for as far as can be learned he took summary steps to rid his cabinet of the two colleagues referred to without consulting his other advisers, or of acquainting the Governor with his course.

The letters which the Premier sent to the Attorney-General and Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works are said to have been very similar in character. He upbraids them with the course they



HON. W. C. WELLS.

have pursued in connection with the Columbia & Western matter, but oddly enough he lays particular stress upon the inefficiency of the two departments.

It is stated that in his letter to Hon. Mr. Eberts the Premier alluded to the course of the Attorney-General on bill 16, and said that he expected the Attorney-General, if he was unable to support that measure, to resign.

It is said that Mr. Eberts will in his reply contend that he placed his portfolio at the disposal of the First Minister on that occasion, and in fact flourished it in the face of the Premier, but was persuaded by that minister to remain in his department.

The turn events have now taken is interpreted by the two ministers concerned as merely an attempt on the part of Col. Prior to place the onus of responsibility belonging to all on the shoulders of two, and to intrench himself at the expense of his other ministers.

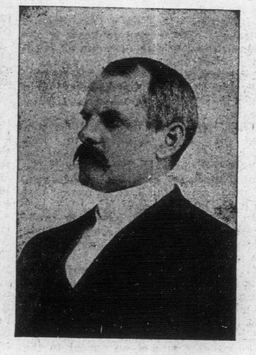
The Premier's action complicates the position of the Lieut.-Governor, and the question on all lips now is, what course will he take? Messrs. Wells and Eberts and their friends declare that Col. Prior knew a year ago all the facts which have now been disclosed, but that it served his purpose at that time to retain them because only in that way could he retain office.

With a majority of but two or three, the Premier will take big chances when he to-day publicly reads two of his ministers out of the party, and drives their votes to an opposition which will not be slow to push an advantage, and if possible a vote of want of confidence.

This morning another disquieting feature was added to the situation by the resignation of the Provincial Secretary, Hon. W. W. B. McInnes.

The upbraided ministers will not meekly submit to the judgment of the Premier, but, on the contrary, will, it is said, upon the first opportunity in the House defend their conduct of the departments over which they preside, and will also call to the attention of their leader that he has not been the impersonation of perfection in the administration of affairs.

Among the members of the House a revulsion of feeling is felt at the course pursued by Premier Prior. In making two members the scapegoats for the sins of the administration the First Minister has incurred opposition even on his own



HON. D. M. EBERTS.

side of the House. The action is regarded as cowardly and they will not allow him to divert from himself the blame which attaches to him in the matter. The various moves in the subsidy transaction are looked upon as executive acts and should be shouldered by the administration.

Col. Prior by his dismissal of the Attorney-General and the Chief Commissioner before the report was presented from the committee is regarded as prejudging and attempting to clear himself in any complicity in the matter by attracting all the attention to these two ministers in question. As one member puts it: "It's a case of pronouncing judgment while the jury is out."

The opposition is united in protesting against this course. In doing so they do not attempt to screen either of the ministers whose connection seemed closer with the matter than the others, but they cannot excuse the transfer of all the ignominy to these two.

This is especially true when they consider that the Premier in his evidence before the select committee condoned the action of his government last session in keeping the House in ignorance of the true condition of affairs.

Last evening, after the arrival of the Charmer and of the Victoria Terminal train, the opposition members from the Mainland joined those already in the city, and a caucus was held in the Imperial hotel. The situation as it then existed was fully gone into, and a line of action decided upon. John Oliver was not present, he not having arrived from Delta. All agreed to put up a united fight against the Prior administration and to hasten its defeat. While their exact line of action has not yet been made known, it is certain that it will be practically a demand for an unconditional surrender by Premier Prior.

This morning the situation was still further complicated by the action of the Provincial Secretary in tendering his resignation to the Premier. Hon. Mr. McInnes, who is entirely independent of any complication in the Columbia & Western subsidy matter, has taken this decisive step in order to hasten a solution of the present complications. He favors an early appeal to the country upon party lines as the proper course to be pursued. His resignation he thinks will hasten this. There is necessity for main items of supply being voted. In order

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to see the necessary estimates voted he is prepared as a member of the House to support the government in getting this granted. Further than that he is not prepared to go.

The committee inquiring into the subsidy matter will not likely be ready to report until late in the afternoon. It was engaged until late last night, and again this morning was busily taken up with their work. The statement of the conditions which they are satisfied existed was agreed upon last evening. This morning they were engaged reaching a finding with respect to the government in general and the two ministers in particular.

With a united opposition and serious defection on the government side the Premier's defeat in the House is assured.

For a few days nothing but sensation after sensation is expected, a thing not altogether unknown in British Columbia politics.

This morning all was excitement about the House. Tete-a-tetes were in progress in all parts of the committee rooms and corridors, and even slates of possible ministers were being prepared. The concensus of opinion seemed to be that the Governor would not in face of the circumstances grant the Premier a dissolution, and that in the event of his refusing to do so he will almost certainly follow constitutional practice and send for the leader of the opposition to form a ministry.

To offset this action, Mr. Martin, who came down last night, is prepared, so it is stated, to give his support to the discredited ministry, and he was conducting an active lobby this morning presumably to that end.

Chas. Wilson, the titular leader of the Conservative party in British Columbia, arrived on the scene this morning ready to play Cincinnatus should the country give him the sign.

Mr. Oliver, to whom the credit for the utter collapse of the government is due, was not on hand to-day, having gone home for a few days' well earned rest after the exacting labor of the special committee.

Mr. Neill is not on hand, but is paired with Mr. Munro.

Messrs. E. C. Smith and W. H. Hayward, it is reported, will oppose the government.

Smith Curtis is disposed to take up the cudgels on behalf of Mr. Wells, whom he regards as mis-used, and may address the House to that effect.

Hon. D. M. Eberts's political life began with his election to the legislature in 1890. At the elections of 1894, 1898 and 1900 he was returned. From 1893 to 1898 he filled the office of Attorney-General in the Dunsmuir government, and retained his portfolio when Col. Prior became Premier.

Hon. W. C. Wells was elected to the House in 1899. In 1900 he was appointed Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works on the organization of the Dunsmuir government. He was sworn in a member of the Prior cabinet on November 22nd, last year.

Hon. W. W. B. McInnes entered the Prior administration as President of the Council last November. When D. Murphy resigned his portfolio as Provincial Secretary a few days after being sworn in, Mr. McInnes was appointed to the vacancy.

ANOTHER SCANDAL?

A special dispatch from Vancouver says:

"The News-Advertiser editorially to-day refers to local rumors that Premier Prior, when acting Chief Commissioner last year, awarded a contract to his firm for the cable for Chimney Creek bridge.

"The article states that the rumor asserts that Premier Prior's company's tender was made after other tenders were put in and their figures known, the company then making a lower offer.

"The article continues that it does not believe the Premier could be guilty of such malfeasance in office as the rumor ascribes to him, and, therefore, takes cognizance of the report so as to give Premier Prior an opportunity of refuting it by having the matter investigated by an impartial tribunal."

On making enquiries to learn if there was any foundation for these reports, the following is gleaned from a gentleman who came from the Terminal City recently: In September last, it is alleged, a Vancouver agent was requested by the lands and works department to tender for wire rope, etc., in accordance with certain specifications for Chimney Creek bridge. This he sent to the department on September 30th. On December 19th he was advised by the department that the contract had been awarded to E. G. Prior & Co. The length of time that elapsed between the sending in of his tender and the advice of the department awarding the contract awakened his suspicions, so he started on a still hunt for information. Bit by bit certain facts came to his knowledge. He learnt, as he states, that Messrs. Prior & Co. cabled for prices after the tenders had been opened, and then that a clerk from that firm had access to the tenders, which enabled them to put in a lower bid, and thus secure the contract, when Mr. Wells returned.

INTIMIDATION.

Number of Strikers at Montreal Sent to Prison—The Situation.

Montreal, May 26.—Montreal street railway authorities to-day issued a notice that they expected to operate their full system to-morrow. A large number of their old employees have reported their readiness to return to work, but the company will not treat with them until to-morrow. On some of the lines to-day a complete service was in operation, while on others a half service was maintained. The company, however, will not run the service after dark. All was quiet to-day. Joseph Limogues, an ex-conductor, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment at hard labor by Judge LaFontaine, in the magistrate's court, for having committed an assault on Constable Bourgeois on Sunday afternoon. Other strikers charged with intimidation pleaded guilty, and were sentenced to from three to fifteen days' imprisonment each at hard labor. J. H. Aube, business manager of the Street Railways Employees' Union, and Joseph Montreuill, a conductor, also were remanded for sentence.

TOOK STRYCHNINE.

Plumber Commits Suicide at Buffalo—Leaves a Sister in British Columbia.

Buffalo, N. Y., May 26.—Suicide by strychnine poisoning was the manner in which Thomas Tannahill, 43 years old, ended his life in his room at his boarding house at 1,145 Main street, early this morning.

Tannahill, who was employed as a plumber, returned home from work last evening and received a letter from his sister, who lives in British Columbia. It is said she had learned Tannahill had been drinking heavily of late, and in the letter she reproached him with his conduct. Late last night Tannahill became despondent and swallowed a number of strychnine pills. On Tannahill's bureau was the following note, which was addressed to his sister: "My life has been a failure, so I say good-bye to all." He also left an order for Mrs. Boxall to collect $14.75 wages due him.

It was said this morning Tannahill has parents, who are well-to-do, living at Kamloops, B. C. An effort will be made to locate them.

REACHED PORT.

New York, May 27.—The agents of the Hamburg-American line in this city received a dispatch from Halifax to-day saying the steamer Bulgaria arrived there this morning with 2,900 immigrants. The Bulgaria was spoken on May 20th, not under command. She did not receive any assistance.

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