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CHARGED SIR JAMES WITH CORRUPT ACT

Prime Minister and Hon. Mr. Hanna Named in Taylor Case by Liberal Member—An Enquiry Ordered—Clear Cut and Empnatic Denials Made by Accused Ministers.

TORONTO, April 24.—The standing Committee on Privileges and Elections met at the Parliament Buildings at noon to-day, for the first time in nearly thirty years, and adjourned to 4 o'clock this afternoon, after being in session one minute. The committee was called together to investigate the sensational charges made by William Proudfoot of Centre Huron against Sir James Whitney and Hon. W. J. Hanna. When the committee had assembled it was announced that as there were five cabinet ministers on this committee, who did not wish to act, an adjournment would be made to 4 o'clock this afternoon, and when the House met at 3 o'clock these and other vacancies on the committee would be filled.

There are thirty-five members on the committee, six of whom are Liberals, one being the Hon. A. G. MacKay, who has since resigned his seat in the House and consequently will not act. Mr. Proudfoot, who makes the charges, and Mr. Rowell, leader of the Opposition, are members of the committee. It is likely when the committee is formally organized this afternoon, Mr. Ferguson, member for Grenville, will be elected chairman. It is an interesting fact that the last time this committee was convened was in 1884, the occasion being the investigation of the Bunting charges.

TORONTO, April 24.—Taking his political life in his hands, W. Proudfoot, Liberal member for Centre Huron, last night made definite charges across the floor of the House against Sir James Whitney and Hon. W. J. Hanna in connection with the Taylor-Scott matter aired in the Public Accounts Committee during the past week. He charged "illegal, corrupt and improper" action, and asked for the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate his charges.

The answer of the Government was swift and direct. The charges were not referred to a Royal Commission, but at noon to-day the Committee on Privileges and Elections meets to take them up. Sir James Whitney and Hon. Mr. Hanna, in declaring their readiness, their anxiety to have all the facts brought out as speedily as possible, brought the Government members to their feet in outburst after outburst of cheering as they branded the charges as falsehoods.

"There is not one atom of truth in these charges," declared Sir James Whitney, in concluding his remarks. "They are worthy of the low and ignoble mind of he man who put them out before the public."

The Provincial Secretary was even more emphatic—stirred as he has not been in addressing the House in years past.

"When those who are making these charges to-day are through with what they have to say I shall make full answer without qualification or reserve. And when I am through there will be not one act of mine that will reflect in any way on my honor or conduct or on the conduct of my department or on my public life in this province. And this I will be willing to leave to the judgment of every fair-minded man in this province, when they understand this blackmailing—because that is what it is," he shouted, "this blackmailing that I have been subjected to for upwards of a year and a half."

The Charges Made.

The last item on the order paper had just been disposed of when Mr. Proudfoot arose to make his charges. In opening, he referred to the action of the Public Accounts Committee in refusing to allow him to proceed with his examination into the circumstances surrounding the Taylor-Scott award and to the challenge to him to

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NEW BANK OF MONTREAL WILL BE NOTABLE ADDITION

Two inspectors of the Bank of Montreal were in the city yesterday, and it is said, in connection with other matters, that the subject of a new building on the present site came up. The bank possesses one of the best and most valuable corners in the city, with a very large frontage, both on Market street and Darling street. It is known that plans have already been drawn up, and they call for a very handsome structure, because the Bank of Montreal never does anything by halves. It is rumored that tenders will be at once asked, and if these prove satisfactory Brantford will have its already excellent bank buildings enriched by a most notable and ornamental structure.

TERRIBLE DEATH LIST IN MINE HORROR NEAR PITTSBURG TO-DAY

Hundred Men Believed to be Dead---Out of 179, Only 79 Came Out---Work of Rescuing Bodies Grimly Proceeds To-Day.

[Canadian Press Despatch]

PITTSBURGH, April 24.—With the coming of dawn fresh crews took the places of the tired workers, who had toiled energetically and braved death throughout the night in an effort to penetrate the dark recesses of the Cincinnati mine of the Pittsburgh Coal Company at Finleyville, Pa., where an explosion of fire damp yesterday killed many men and wrecked the mine.

Eighteen bodies had been brought up to the mouth of the principal opening this morning, and from there transferred to Monongahela city to be prepared for burial.

That the mine contains many more dead, even officers of the company admit, while leaders of the rescue parties and some of the men who escaped from the workings, are of the opinion that the fatalities will number close to one hundred. However, it will be impossible to determine the exact extent of the catastrophe until the miles of main and cross entries have been explored, a difficult task when it is known that these are choked with fallen timbers and rocks. Many men, working with feverish haste, are building brattices to carry the fresh air through the gas filled galleries.

General Manager Geo. W. Schlneberg of the coal company, early took charge of the situation in person and directed the work of rescue. Crews from the Pittsburgh station of the United States Bureau of Mines were hurried to the little mining town, to recover the bodies of the dead and rescue such as might have survived the explosion and the dreaded "after damp." Already parties of superintendents, fire bosses and mine bosses from other mines of the coal company and the mines of independent companies in the neighborhood has been at work in the mine, but they were able to make little headway. The ventilation system has been paralized by the explosion, and before the workings could be explored it was necessary to construct temporary passages through which the fresh air could be forced. Long hours were consumed in this labor, but in the meantime parties provided with oxygen helmets had climbed over the fallen rock through some of the principal entries. They found many dead, but few living, and when the last of these rescuers appeared at the mouth of the slope this morning they gave it as their opinion that all the men who had not been accounted for were dead.

It was hoped, company officers said, that the air would have been advanced by noon suffiicent to allow a thorough search of the workings.

BIRCHALL'S SECRET GOES TO THE GRAVE UNTOLD TO WORLD

[Canadian Press Despatch]

HAMILTON, Ont., April 24.—Rev. Canon Wade, formerly rector of the Church of the Ascension, died here to-day, and took with him to the grave the secret conveyed to him by Birchall, who was hanged at Woodstock for the murder of Benwell. Canon Wade was one of the chief figures in that noted case. He was the chaplain who walked to the scaffold with the murderer. Just before Birchall paid for his crime with his life he made a private statement to Canon Wade. What passed between the two Canon Wade would never disclose.

Canon Wade had been in failing health for some months past, having suffered from a stroke of apoplexy while he was attending the recent Pan-Anglican conference in England. At the time of his first illness he was compelled to remain at the home of his son in England for several months, but improved sufficiently to return to his home here.

William Henry Wade was born in England in 1851 and came to this country when a young man. After receiving his education he prepared himself for the ministry of the Anglican Church, and was ordained a deacon by the Bishop of Huron in Christ Church, London, on November 29, 1885, and a priest of the church on November 7 of the year following. His first charge was at Burford, where he was located from 1885 to 1887. He then went to Woodstock, remaining there until 1892. On November 14, 1892 he assumed the rectorship of the Church of the Ascension, of this city, which office he retained until failing health compelled his retirement at the Easter vestry meeting of 1912. Since coming to Hamilton he was made a canon of Christ Church Cathedral of this city.

Besides his wife, he is survived by one son, who is in the ministry of the Church of England in England, and three daughters, one of whom is a missionary in China.

PERS

BAD FIRE NIPPED AT MALLEABLE PLANT

Hot Blaze Last Night at Pratt and Letchworth Company's Plant—Entire Plant Seemed in Danger of Distruction—Firemen Did Great Work in Saving Plant—Loss $15,000.

"There will be no men laid off work, at least only for a day or two, as temporary covering will be put up over the part of the factory damaged by fire." This statement was made officially at the Malleable Iron Works to-day. Work on rebuilding the core-room and moulding shop will be rushed with all possible despatch. The loss, it is estimated, will be well within $15,000.

Fire which did not creep but fairly swept over the huge frame structure known as the new core room and the new moulding shop of the Pratt and Letchworth Company's plant threatened for half an hour last night the complete extinction of one of the Brantford's largest industries. A more spectacular or dangerous looking blaze could scarcely be imagined than that which met the members of the fire brigade about 6.20 last evening. The western end of the plant seemed all ablaze, with smoke issuing forth as from a dozen volcanoes. The fire seemed to be eating its way in a dozen different directions over the frame roof. Those on hand early passed it up as only a matter of time before the plant was wiped out.

That the fire department did excellent work in keeping the loss within $15,000 was conceded as soon as the blaze was under control. The new core room was totally destroyed, and the new moulding department ruined for the most part. The loss includes patterns and material in use on the floor and it is difficult to estimate what this loss on contents will be. Insurance men conservatively estimate the entire loss at $15,000.

The Start.

The fire started in the roof of the core room which faces the Grand Trunk round house. The employee who first saw the fire said it started right over his head and he believed it was from the dynamo. He ran to Box 413 the company's own alarm and turned it. Meanwhile others saw the blaze which shot up within a minute and ran to turn in the alarm.

First Work.

The first hose turned on the fire was by G. T. R. Foreman Walker and John Stevens who has charge of the round house. They connected two hydrants in the round house, and the shop employees did the rest. Meantime the firemen arrived and laid hose, both on the north and south side from hydrants and fought the fire from both sides. Chief Lewis lost no time in putting several streams on to protest the eastern portion of the plant which at first seemed gone. The firemen at first did not dare go to the roof because the fire seemed to be making such headway under it and with such rapidity that this would have been a dangerous procedure.

Hard to Get At.

The fire was extremely difficult to get at. but the firemen drew their wagon over the tracks and laid the hose with skill. Many Malleable employees assisted, and a big squad of foreigners did a lot of work when directed. The G. T. R. flyers were delayed for some time until the fire was under control

Chimney Fell.

There employees heard a mighty yell from hundreds of people who saw the big chimney over the core room about to topple. It fell with a mighty crash, the employees getting away by several feet. The big chimney which had only been up a week over the new cupola remained firm,

Pulled Engines Out.

There were two Grand Trunk engines in the round house and three just outside. Quick work was made in getting them away, as it was feared that the round house might not be saved.

Very Quick Fire.

The fire obtained such a quick headway from the nature of the buildings that the firemen arrived the whole place looked to be gone. The firemen took the pavement up Market street, the Central department going to Wilkins street and the East Ward to Sydenham street. General comment was heard on all sides that the force of men was inefficient for a fire of such proportions.

The Insurance.

Insuarnce to the amount of $237,000 is held by the company, all placed through Messrs. K. V. Bunnell and Co. It is estimated there will be a ten per cent. loss.

Work on Monday.

Secretary H. J. Bassett said this morning that when he came to look over the damage done he could scarcely believe his eyes this morning, so surprised was he that so little damage was done. The core ovens were almost intact, and the big melting furnace was not touched. From general appearances this morning it looked as if merely a hole was burned out. Mr. Bassett, who is in charge of the plant, was decidedly well pleased with the work of the firemen.

"Although insurance of a quarter of a million is held, no one can estimate what the loss would have been, as 50 factories would have been tied up awaiting supplies from our factory. We expect to get to work in full force again on Monday," said Mr. Bassett.

Crane Saved.

A daring piece of work was effected when an employee of the company turned on the electricity and pulled the big $6,000 crane through the fire in the moulding shop to safety. The crane was saved, and had it been left where it was it would have been damaged.

Speedy Settlement.

Arrangements were started by wire last night by Messrs. K. V. Bunnell & Co. for a speedy settlement of insurance losses.

Chief Lewis Pleased.

Chief Lewis this morning was extremely well pleased with his men and the many others who helped in confining the blaze so well. He did not think the loss could possibly be over $15,000. When he first arrived it looked to him as if the entire plant wasgo ne. The Chief thought it was due to the fact that the firemen were able to surround the blaze, the important work in this regard being from Wilkins street. About fourteen streams in all were put on, and the firemen were back at the hall before 9 o'clock. The Chief considered that the employees did excellent work, also a number of outsiders who jumped in, and whose work was greatly appreciated.

MOST REVOLTING IS THIS CASE

Death of Brantford Girl in Toronto Most Distressing Affair.

A most distressing case was reported to-day by Secretary Axford of the Children's Aid Society. Jean Fletcher, aged 18 years, a girl whom Mr. Axford took to Toronto a week ago to a Rescue Home, died last night as a result of the terrible condition she was in before being taken away. The girl was a ward of the Children's Aid Society. Some time ago her father was sentenced to two years, less a day, on the charge of incest, the girl who died yesterday having been the principal witness against him. The case was of a most revolting nature. Now there is an application for Fletcher to secure parole. The family lived along the Burford road. Secretary Axford leaves to-day to bring the girl's remains back to Brantford for burial. She died in the Western Hospital.

Purchase Building.

The property known as the Wilkes Apartment House, situated on Dalhousie street and recently purchased by Mr. Cicero Force, has been resold to the Hurley Printing Co., for $5,000. The present building will be taken down and a modern building suitable for the company's building will be erected.

PLANS WILL BE DISCUSSED

In Connection With Bell Memorial Several Suggestions Made Re Park

A meeting of a special Bell Telephone Memorial Association committee, who have charge of promoting improvement to the streets surrounding and adjacent to the site of the memorial, will be held on the grounds immediately after the auction sale of the buildings next Monday afternoon. After looking over the ground the committee will meet in Grace Church school room, by permission, to consider any proposals or suggestions that have or may be made. Owners of property affected are invited to the meeting.

The association have received the following suggstions from time to time:—

To pave all the streets surrounding the proposed park.

To pave West street from Park to Grand Trunk Station, leaving 16 feet on each side of the street for sidewalks and boulevards; and a boulevarde, 12 to 16 feet wide, along middle of the street, except at street intersections.

To pave Wellington street from the park to George.

To pave Albion street from the park to the subway, provided there is made a uniform grade from a point

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LOOKING INTO THE CORE-ROOM, WHERE FIRE STARTED

NEW BATTERY IS ASSURED

Col. Ashton Will Command and Mr. W. T. Henderson Will Be Capt.

The 32nd Field Battery for Brantford of the 13th Brigade F. A. is now assured for Brantford with Lieut. Col. Ashton in command. Col. Ashton anounced today that he would fill the post of Major for the new battery, but that he would retain the same rank and precedence as he had when he retired from the Dufferin Rifles. The battery will have strength of 80 with a Major, Captain and two subalterns. Mr. W. T. Henderson is named as Captain and Mr. W. P. Kellett as one of the Lieutenants. The new organization will be a Howitzer battery of four guns. Organization however will not be completed until the fall on the return of Col. Ashton from Europe. A provisional school will be opened here for qualifying officers.

WATERWORKS NOTICE.

The city water will be shut off in certain parts of the city this evening. Consumers are requested to draw enough water for domestic use for a few hours.

Proudfoot will lose the first section

In City.

Major Christie, D. S. O. (African war), now a bank manager of Victoria, B.C., formerly a Brantford boy, is in the city, a guest of his uncle, Mr. J. Y. Morton.

How about a nice brick of ice-cream? You can get ice-cream in bulk or in bricks or cones. Our ice-cream parlor will be open in a few days. A. Patterson, Grocer and Confectioner, 143 William St., Phone 581.

Split His Finger.

English, the catcher, who is working out for a place on the Brantford team had the misfortune to have one of his fingers split during the practice this morning.

One Minute Interviews

Mr. H. T. Westbrook:—"I'll have lived in Brantford 70 years next February, and have seen it grow from almost a village to the hummer the place is now."

Mr. S. P. Pitcher:—"The Courier is sure a live wire these days."

GRAND OPERA HOUSE BRANTFORD

Thursday, April 24.—Wm. A. Brady Limited presents New Yrk's greatest dramatic triumph, "BOUGHT AND PAID FOR," by Geo. Broadhurst, direct from its run of one solid year at The Playhouse, New York. The New York Journal said: "Makes you laugh with one eye and cry with the other. While there is a good deal of pathos in the play, there is a large vein of humor, with prolonged gushes of laughter. It is a great play, inspired by the happenings of our every-day life. Prices, 25c, 50c, 75c, $1, $1.50. Seats Tuesday.

Tuesday, April 29.—Wm. A. Brady presents ROBERT B. MANTELL in Shakespeare's greatest masterpiece of romance, "THE MERCHANT OF VENICE." Robert B. Mantell, by right of ability, efficiency and professional achievement, is now the legitimate leader of the American stage. William Winter, dean of American dramatic critics, in Shakespeare on the Stage, his permanent record for posterity. It is indeed gratifying to know that there is still an actor who is passing on the best traditions of our stage. The late Horace Howard Furness, America's greatest Shakespearean scholar. Curtain wll raise promptly at 8 o'clock. Prices 25c to $2. Seats to non-subscribers Saturday.

REPORT WILL BE PRESENTED

In Connection With Graft Charges--Board of Works Meeting.

All the board of works were solemnly sworn to secrecy at the special meeting last night in connection with allegations of graft which have been made. A Courier reporter this morning was informed that a report would be presented at the meeting of the council on Monday night next by the committee, which would explain and deal with the whole matter. What form of oath the members took to keep things secret, was not mentioned, but it was a solemn cross-the-heart affair. The Courier does not believe in passing out innuendoes and insinuations against an entire body of officials, and the board of works report will be published in full when ready.

Mr. James Legacy denied absolutely this morning that he had given any interview to The Expositor, and witnesses present corroborate his statement that he was quoted as making statements which he never nttered.

The thousands of spectators who watched the fire from the G. T. R. tracks were unable to see how it got stopped in such record time, but it was doubtless because of the work on the other side of the building.

Quiet Wedding.

Rev. G. Woodside yesterday joined John Schofield and Charlotte Street in the holy bonds of matrimony.

Freight Bill.

A bill for a car load of poles for the Hydro Electric commission from Summit, B.C., aounting to $274.30, is on file at the City Clerk's Office.

MR. KELLETT'S OTTAWA TRIP

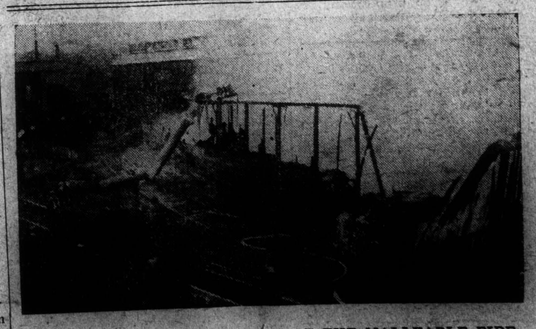
Pt. Dover Harbor to Be Discussed With Hon. Robert Rogers.

Mr. W. P. Kellett, chief engineer and general manager of the Lake Erie and Northern Railway leaves for Ottawa this evening.

He goes at the request of Hon. Mr Rogers, Minister of Public Works, who wishes to have further consultation with regard to the proposed dredging of Port Dover harbor.

If this is done, as before related in the Courier, a line of freighters will be established between Dover and Erie, Penn., thus greatly reducing the haul of coal and steel for Brantford manufacturers and other manufacturers even as far as Toronto.

Men's New Spring Suits at Whitlock's. See their specials at $9.00 and $11.00.



WHERE THE CHIMNEY FELL AT THE MALLEABLE FIRE