

BRUTAL DOUBLE MURDER NEAR SUSSEX

THE WEATHER.

Maritime—Strong winds or gales, shifting to northwest and west, occasional rain or snow and turning colder.

The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

OPERA HOUSE

TODAY MATINEE 2:30

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ERZERUM'S FALL MAY SPELL COLLAPSE OF GERMAN CAMPAIGN AGAINST EGYPT AND THE SUEZ CANAL

Enormous Booty Taken—When Russians Entered Town Includes Priceless Art Treasures Besides Immense Supply of Provisions—Turks Likely Soon to Abandon Trebizond, Black Sea Naval Base—British Attack German Line.

Petrograd, Feb. 17, via London, Feb. 18.—(Delayed)—The latest reports received here from Erzerum say that the amount of booty, including provisions and ammunition, captured in the city by the Russians, is enormous. The Turks evidently had prepared for a long struggle and had turned Erzerum into the main provisioning centre in Asia Minor. In addition the city contained countless art treasures of all descriptions, which were bequeathed by the ancient civilization through which it had passed.

The number of guns taken at Erzerum is now estimated at 1,000, most of which were abandoned in the forts or along the roads during the panic flight of the Turkish garrison.

The Russian press believes that the collapse of the Turkish defense in Armenia, will put an end to Germany's efforts to inspire a Mussulman fanatic war against Russia, and will tend to turn them against their German allies. It is pointed out also by the newspaper that the fall of Erzerum may bring about the collapse of the proposed campaign against the Suez Canal and Egypt.

The evacuation of Trebizond, according to the newspapers, will be one of the immediate results of the Russian victory. Trebizond is regarded as being no longer tenable as the Turkish Black Sea base.

Russians Close on Heels of Fleeing Turks.

Petrograd, Feb. 18, via London, Feb. 19.—The war office communication issued today says:

"The completeness of the defeat sustained by the Turks and the terrible losses they suffered in the Erzerum fighting are becoming more and more clear. The forts in the fortress itself and in the surrounding country are full of Turkish dead.

"The remnants of the Turkish army, pressed by our troops, are fleeing in disorder at many points, in different directions. A severe snowstorm has failed to cool the ardor of our men in pursuit, who are close on the heels of the enemy, and are annihilating them or taking prisoners at the tail ends of Turkish columns.

"We captured at Erzerum the entire fortress artillery and a large part of the enemy's field artillery. Up to the present we have counted two hundred guns. We have taken a huge quantity of artillery ammunition and arms, several dozen motor cars, wireless apparatus, and a postbox park. The number of other troops taken and Turkish soldiers captured in the vast region of Erzerum are being tabulated.

"The troops of the Caucasian army, notwithstanding the supreme efforts demanded of them in the ceaseless fighting for over a month under most difficult geographical conditions have suffered but slight losses, and are ready for fresh exploits when the sovereign chief gives the order.

British Drives at Hun Lines

There has been considerable artillery activity around the positions taken by the Germans recently from the British in the vicinity of Ypres and several attempts by the British to recapture their lost ground by infantry attacks. Berlin says the attacks were repulsed with heavy casualties. With the exception of a French assault against the German south of the Somme, which Berlin also declares was put down, the artillery on both sides has been the sole instrument of warfare along the French front.

LORD DERBY BELIEVES GERMANY WILL ATTEMPT SEA RAID ON ENGLAND

Liverpool, Feb. 18 (11.21 p. m.)—"I have always believed," said Lord Derby, "that sooner or later the Germans will attempt a great sea raid on this country, and that however well organized the navy is it will not be able to stop it, but I believe the army and navy are now so co-ordinated that even if a raid comes it will be practically inoperative, and that those who come will be wiped out."

Discussing the air menace, Lord Derby appealed to the newspapers not to unduly agitate the public mind regarding air raids, because of effect such agitation was likely to have on the British airmen.

WHOLESALE MASSACRE OF ARMENIANS BY KURDS BEFORE ERZERUM FELL

Petrograd, Feb. 18, via London.—A semi-official news agency says:

"The exact number of Turkish troops captured at Erzerum is not known, but the greater part of the garrison got away, as the fortress was not invested but was carried by assault. The number of guns captured reach 1,000.

"Before the evacuation Kurds mercilessly massacred thousands of Armenians. The city's defensive works were organized by the German Commander Posselt, and are spoken of as admirable, and as embodying all the resources of modern artillery and engineering.

"The latest reports indicate that the heavy Turkish reinforcements which were hastening to the aid of Erzerum failed to arrive in time.

"The capture of Erzerum has aroused the greatest enthusiasm throughout Russia. Towns, large and small, are the scene of demonstrations, parades and Te Deum celebrations. The most imposing demonstration took place at Tiflis, where the Grand Duke Nicholas in person announced the news of the fall of Erzerum. The whole town was lavishly decorated and the Grand Duke appeared several times in response to the acclamations of the crowds.

GERMANY SENDING OUT FEELERS TO THE ALLIES AS TO PEACE PROSPECTS?

New York, Feb. 18.—Arthur S. Drape, London correspondent for the Tribune, cables his paper as follows:

"Unofficially Germany is exceeding busy just now sounding sentiment regarding peace among the Allies. Feelers are being sent out practically to all countries except Great Britain.

SECOND READING BILL TO AMEND THE BANK ACT

Banks Promise Sir Thomas White They Will Co-operate with Him in Helping Farmers.

BIG DREDGES IN HUNT FOR GOLD IN YUKON.

Last Page of History of that Distant Part of Canada far from Completed, Dr. Thompson Says.

Ottawa, Feb. 18, via leased wire.—Some discussion took place at the opening of the House, based upon a report of the utterances of Mr. J. R. Falls, candidate for re-election in Peel county to the Ontario legislature, at the nomination meeting in the constituency. Mr. Falls was quoted as having stated that Mr. John Thompson, K. C., counsel for the Davidson Commission, which enquired into his part in the purchases of horses in the county for the dominion government, had told him after the investigation that there was no possibility of legal action against him but that, as a member of the legislature, he was judicious in having anything to do with the transactions. Mr. Macdonald, rep. of Pictou, who drew attention to the report, did not believe that Mr. Thompson would have passed judgment on the case in advance of the commissioner, but he thought the House should know whether or not Mr. Thompson had made such a statement.

Sir Sam Hughes, to whom Mr. Macdonald seemed to address his remarks, said that he did not know that he had the right to question Mr. Thompson about his private conversations. To this Mr. Macdonald replied that Mr. Thompson had been acting as the servant of the people in the enquiry and that the people ought to know whether or not he had prejudged the case. Some further debate then ensued during which Hon. C. J. Doherty expressed the opinion that Sir Charles Davidson, the commissioner, had made a thorough investigation of the matters brought before him. Mr. Doherty said that Sir Charles was responsible to the people of Canada and that the minister of justice would be going very far if he interfered with the commissioner in regard to the conduct of the enquiry. After Mr. Speaker Severyn had pointed out that questions raised at that stage in the proceedings of the House were not debatable, Mr. Doherty said that he had not seen the newspaper report referred to and that when he had seen it he would be able to say whether or not there was any cause for action on his part.

P.E.I. FOX MEN WANT TAX ONLY ON ACTUAL SALES

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Feb. 18.—At a largely attended meeting of fox men of West Prince county held at Alberton yesterday the matter of fox taxation was discussed at length.

A resolution was passed unanimously declaring that the fox tax act passed at the last session of the Island legislature has been found difficult and undesirable and should be amended so that taxes shall be levied and collected on only the actual sales and receipts from the different ranches. The tax at present is levied on the value of the increase on each ranch each year. At the Alberton meeting fifty fox ranchers signed a petition against the present law. This petition will be circulated throughout the Island.

The matter is to be taken up at an annual meeting of Fox Breeders' Association. (Continued on page 2)

THOMAS O'BRIEN AND HIS WIFE BATTERED TO DEATH WITH CLUB; SUSPECT IN JAIL AT SUSSEX

HAVANA TOBACCO MAKERS HARD HIT BY BRITISH DECREE

All Factories Reducing Output and Letting Out Help—Many May Close Altogether.

Havana, Feb. 18.—The British proclamation prohibiting, after March 1, except under board of trade license, importation of manufactured and unmanufactured tobacco, including cigars and cigarettes, is causing much uneasiness in Havana. It is feared that it will result in much distress among the cigar makers and a great loss to manufacturers and planters. All the factories are reducing their output and discharging workers. Should the appeal of the Cuban minister in London for the British government to exempt from the operation of the decree contracts for cigars already made result in failure, many factories would shut down, throwing out of employment upwards of 5,000 cigar makers, for whom government aid would be necessary.

SCHWAB CONTINUES AS CHAIRMAN OF BETHLEHEM STEEL DIRECTORATE

Succeeded as President by L. G. Grace—Purchase Price of Pennsylvania Steel Co. was Nearly \$40,000,000.

New York, Feb. 18.—L. G. Grace, of Bethlehem, Pa., was elected president of the Bethlehem Steel Company at a meeting of the directors here today. He succeeds in that position Charles M. Schwab, who remains at the head of the company as chairman of the board. Mr. Schwab announced today that the purchase price of the Pennsylvania Steel Company, recently acquired by the Bethlehem Company, aggregated approximately \$31,900,000.

The acquisition of the Pennsylvania Company, Mr. Schwab said, was the outcome of the determination reached by the Bethlehem Company some time ago to add to its output Bessemer Steel products and other general steel lines. For several reasons, he declared, it seemed wiser to accomplish these enlargements by acquiring a plant already in operation rather than to await the enlargement of the plant at Bethlehem.

The purchase, it was pointed out, includes or properties both in this country and in Cuba, as well as important coal deposits.

PREMIER HUGHES NOW MEMBER OF PRIVY COUNCIL OF CANADA

Ottawa, Feb. 18.—Premier William Morris Hughes of Australia is now a member of the Canadian privy council. He was sworn in today by H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught and after the ceremony on the invitation of Sir Robert Borden, he attended and participated in a meeting of the dominion cabinet.

Ward's Creek, Kings County, Scene of Crime—Dominic Canning, said to be of Unsound Mind, Arrested.

One Report Says There Had Been Bad Feeling Between Prisoner and Murdered Man—No Direct Evidence but Robbery Believed to Have Been Motive—House was Thoroughly Ransacked and Walls Blood Covered—Eighteen Hundred Dollars in Gold Found on Canning—An Important Letter—Inquest Today.

Thomas O'Brien, aged upwards of eighty-five years, and his wife his equal in age, were murdered at their home at Ward's Creek, seven miles from Sussex, sometime during Thursday night. Their bodies were found shortly after ten o'clock yesterday morning by Robert Quigley, a neighbor who went to their house to deliver mail.

The murder was committed by repeated blows on the heads with a piece of timber with which their brains were beaten out. Dominic Canning, their neighbor, a brother of the murdered woman, who is said to be slightly unbalanced, has been arrested on suspicion of having committed the crime.

Thomas O'Brien was a farmer in late years. He had formerly been engaged in the meat business, having a stand in the market in St. John, and during the course of his business career here he had travelled a great deal through Kings and adjoining counties buying beef. On retiring from business, because of advancing years, he moved to Ward's Creek, where he took up farming. He bought a property known as the Whalen farm and settled there with his wife, formerly Miss Canning. This was his third wife. He had made some money in St. John and had prospered during his residence in Kings county. At his farm he carried quite a large lot of livestock and was generally regarded as being pretty well off in this world's goods.

A SIGNIFICANT FACT.

It would appear that of late there has been some trouble between Mr. O'Brien and his brother-in-law, Canning, who lived not far away. This friction came to a head in 1913 when the old man is said to have given Canning a beating, and also to have trespassed by crossing Canning's land. This led to threatened action for assault and trespass, but it is understood that some sort of settlement was arrived at whereby the matter did not come to court.

Canning is a bachelor and a farmer, and when seen last night by a representative of The Standard did not seem to be in a condition to talk on the charge for which he has been arrested. He has, however, been freely spoken of as a stray in his head, and it was this impression together with the knowledge of former trouble that led to his arrest, on suspicion before those in authority really had any definite information on which to base an arrest. While being taken to the jail Canning, who went along quietly enough, attempted to tell the officers what he could do if left alone long enough.

Mayor Wallace, of Sussex, who is also coroner for Kings county, was advised of the crime very soon after it had been discovered by Mr. Quigley, and accompanied by Sheriff S. A. McLeod, left for the scene of the murder. This is the first duty which has fallen on the new sheriff of Kings, but Mr. McLeod was right on the spot and lost no time in taking all necessary steps to secure evidence.

A TERRIBLE SCENE.

Ward's Creek is seven miles from Sussex. On reaching the home of the murdered couple the Coroner and Sheriff at once made a thorough examination of the premises. They found the house to be of the ordinary farm style with front door opening on a narrow hallway. The back door, which is on the same side of the house, opens into the kitchen. In rear of the kitchen are a pantry and a bedroom, the stove being in the middle of the kitchen, and the bedroom opening from behind it. In the corner formed by the kitchen partition and the back wall of the house stood a couch.

In the bedroom in rear of the kitchen the officers found the body of Mrs. O'Brien, lying in the centre of the room between the bed and the wall. Her skull was crushed in, and on the walls and floor were great blotches of blood and brains, indicating the awful violence of the blows given by the murderer. The room was in great disorder and there were on all sides evidences of a desperate resistance on the part of the aged couple before they were overcome by their assailant.

VICTIMS 'BATTERED INTO PULP.

On the couch in the kitchen were further evidences of the struggle, and in the doorway between the kitchen and bedroom was found the body of the old man in much the same state as that of the wife. There was, however, in his hand a small stick which he had evidently used in an endeavor to defend himself and his wife and which he still grasped when the fatal blow was struck. Beside him lay a heavy piece of wood covered with blood and hair and without doubt the weapon with which the horrible crime was committed. This stick resembled the crooked stick used by boys in playing the game of outdoor hockey and affording as it did a curved grip would prove a tremendous weapon in the hands of a powerful man. The heads of both victims were battered almost beyond recognition and it would appear from a superficial examination that the murderer had continued to deal blow after blow on the helpless couple after his victims were dead. (Continued on page 2)