WEATHER FORECAST

MARITIME PROVINCES
Strong Northwesterly Winds, Gradually Decreasing in Force; Fair and Cold.

Temperature at 3 A. M. 15 Degrees Above Zero.

The Standard.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

VOL. III. NO. 239 SAINT JOHN, CANADA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1911 TWELVE PAGES

TO DECIDE THE FUTURE OF CHINA

Peace Conference Decides to Leave Formulation of Government to National Convention—Decision Binding.

MANCHUS MEANWHILE ARE RESTRICTED.

Shanghai, Dec. 29.—The peace conference today decided on the calling of a national convention to decide the form of government of China whose decision shall be binding on both sides. The Manchu troops are meanwhile to evacuate their positions and the Republicans to maintain their's.

The peace conference at their meeting today, agreed in the first place that the question of the form of government to be ultimately adopted for China, should be discussed, and decided by a national convention whose decision should be binding on both parties.

In the second place it was agreed that pending the decision of the National convention, the Manchu government was neither to accept, nor to attempt to obtain foreign loans.

In the third place all Manchu troops in the Provinces of Shan-Si, Shen-Si, Ho-Peh, and Kiangsu, shall evacuate their present positions and withdraw from them to advance 100 li (about 33 miles), within five days, beginning from Dec. 31. The Republican troops shall in the meantime neither advance nor occupy the places evacuated, pending special arrangements to be reached by mutual agreement. The Manchu troops are not to advance nor to attack the positions at Shantung, already held by the Republicans, nor shall the Republican troops advance upon nor capture new places.

It is understood that the National Convention to be called, is to include those delegates at present in conference at Nanking who have elected Dr. Sun Yat Sen president of the republic, and others to be elected.

COMMISSION IS TO HAVE SERVICES OF PRIVATE SECRETARY

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—H. V. Rourke, assistant accountant in the customs department, has been appointed private secretary to the newly appointed civil service investigation commission. Mr. Rourke is well adapted for this position, as he has been 20 years in the service, and also was private secretary to the Hon. Clarke Wallace, former comptroller of customs.

DECISIVE DEFEAT IS INFLICTED ON THE ZAPATISTAS

Cuernvaca, Mexico, Dec. 29.—A sharp engagement between fifty federal sappers, supported by a small detachment of rurales and 200 Zapatistas in a mountain pass ten miles east of this city resulted in the route of the Zapatistas.

INCORPORATION OF MARITIME DREDGING COMPANY OF ST. JOHN

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—The Maritime Dredging Company of St. John has been incorporated with a capital of three-quarters of a million, the incorporators being W. M. Doherty, G. H. Deane, Robert Seely, Thomas Bell and F. C. MacNeill

WARRINGTON BADLY DAMAGED BY UNKNOWN SHIP--TOWED TO PORT

Washington, Dec. 29.—The crippled torpedo boat destroyer, Warrington, which was run down off Hatteras in a gale on Wednesday night by an unknown ship, was safely towed into Hampton Roads this morning by the revenue cutter Onondaga, which also brought the destroyer's crew. Wireless despatches received at revenue cutter headquarters announces the Warrington's safe arrival.

At noon the navy department has received no report of the Warrington's collision with the unknown ship that rammed a hole in her stern, flooding her engine room with water.

PACKERS DID HAVE COMBINE

Direct Evidence of Existence of Pool Which Regulated Prices to be Paid and Charged for Meat.

VEEDER TESTIFIES IN PACKERS' TRIAL.

Chicago, Dec. 29.—Direct evidence that a packers pool was in existence from 1893 to 1896, and that it, after suspending operations two years, resumed control of the country's fresh meat business, today was given in the packers' trial by Henry Veeder, who admitted that he acted as secretary of the organization.

It was the first positive testimony offered regarding the existence of the old pool which, it is said, met under the name of "Post Office Box No. 247" met every Tuesday afternoon on the sixth floor of the Counselman Building, Chicago, to fix the price of fresh beef, agree on the price to be paid for cattle, and allot among its members the amount of meat to be shipped into the different centers of distribution.

Henry Veeder, who is a son of Albert H. Veeder, the attorney for the Packers, followed his father on the stand as the second witness called by the government. His story of the inside workings of the old Packers pool was not half finished when court adjourned. He admitted many of the material allegations made by counsel for the government in their opening address to the jury.

Between 1893 and 1896 the pool members were Armour & Company, Armour Packing Company, Cudahy & Company, G. H. Hammond & Company, St. Louis Dressed Beef and Provision Company, Morris & Company, and Swift & Company, according to Henry Veeder. In 1898 Schwarzschild & Sulzberger entered the combination the witness said.

TURKS ENGAGE FORCE OF ITALIANS IN A FIERCE ENGAGEMENT

Derna, Tripoli, Dec. 29.—An Italian force under General Delbuono while protecting the engineers at work repairing the aqueduct was strongly engaged by a large force of Turks with heavy artillery. The Italians though hard pressed, managed to hold off the enemy until the work was completed and then retired on their reloubts with a loss of 3 killed and 77 wounded.

PRESIDENT WANTS ASSISTANCE FOR NEW GOVERNMENT

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—A cablegram from Dr. Sun Yat Sen, newly elected president of China, urging the Chinese National Association of America to seek talented and experienced Chinese in this country for service in the provisional government, arrived here today.

CUSTOMS REVENUE SHOWS INCREASE IN RECENT ESTIMATE

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—The total customs revenue collected for the first eight months of the fiscal year, amounted to $56,336,708. The estimated revenue for the year ending March 31 next, is $85,000,000, a gain of thirteen millions. The inland revenue receipts for the eight months will amount to $14,547,523 as against $12,383,118 in the corresponding period last year.

GOVERNMENT IS INVITED TO AMEND THE COPYRIGHT ACT

London, Dec. 29.—The Yorkshire Post, Leeds, says the home government has invited the Dominion government to submit amending legislation to the copyright act, as it is impossible to have a uniform Empire law if the new Canadian government takes the same view as its predecessors.

Germany and other nations are determined to stand aloof from the convention if Canada persists in her present attitude. The recent statements of the Hon. Martin Burrell, the minister of agriculture for Canada, however, lends hope that the Dominion will come into line.

FLAMES SWEEP VALUABLE PROPERTY IN HALIFAX

Blaze in King Edward Hotel Spreads Rapidly Completely Destroying Building—Started in Guest's Room.

Loss is Partly Covered by Insurance—Firemen do Splendid Work.

St. Croix Paper Plant Also Takes Fire, Flames Spreading to Adjoining Buildings—Under Control.

Special to The Standard.

Halifax, Dec. 29.—The King Edward Hotel was completely destroyed by fire tonight. At about 8.30 one of the servants discovered a slight blaze in room 57, in the upper flat of the building. The alarm was immediately given. Some of the guests and waiters conveyed the hotel hose to the room, and when the water was turned on the nozzle and other parts of the hose leaked so badly that the little stream which poured out was of practically no value.

The fire spread with great rapidity, but when the chemical engine arrived it was still confined to one room. The guests, who assisted in carrying the small hose upstairs, went to their rooms and removed their effects. Efforts were made to extinguish the flames with the chemical, but without success.

General Alarm.

A general alarm had been rung in the meantime and when the whole fire department arrived parts of the roof was ablaze. The engines were stationed at different points but there was scarcely any water. Almost thirty minutes later there was an abundant supply of water, sufficient to supply fifteen streams. Every steam fire engine in the city, with the exception of the Alexandria was in commission. The chemicals were doing good work, any building ignited being immediately extinguished by them.

2—Flames

High Wind.

The wind was blowing with the velocity of 33 miles an hour and caused the flames to spread with great rapidity over a large six story wooden structure, so that the conflagration culminated into a fiery furnace, the flames having complete control of the building. Thousands of people began to congregate near the doomed building and it was feared that a large part of Lockman and North streets would be wiped out.

The Dartmouth fire department was summoned and arrived in a short time, rendering very effective service. The Halifax Union Protection Company was early on the scene and did excellent work, removing all the valuable goods from the top story of the hotel to the basement, and practically all the property in the hotel (not including boarders' effects) were saved by them.

Fifteen streams of water were still playing on the ruins at 12.30 o'clock. Not a timber of the building remains.

The King Edward Hotel was valued at about $75,000. The building was insured for $40,000. The furniture is insured for $25,000. William Wilson was proprietor and owner of the building, which was constructed nine years ago. Fifty sailors from H. M. C. S. Niobe assisted in removing the furniture and effects from the building.

A Second Fire.

The St. Croix Paper Plant on Lockman street was completely gutted by fire and water this morning. Fire was discovered in the building at 12 o'clock. It spread rapidly and at 2.30 was burning fiercely. Five houses have also caught fire and it is feared many buildings will be destroyed.

3.15 a. m. The wind is now moderating and it is believed the fire is under control.

Independence Is Considered Conclusive

PEKING, Dec. 29.—The independence of outer Mongolia is considered here as conclusive, since the proclamation of the Kutuktu as khan.

Russia is expected to recognize the importance of Mongolia after some months.

COULDN'T AGREE ON CHAPERONE--WOMAN LOSES BERMUDA TRIP

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, Dec. 29.—Recently the Mail Publishing Company of this city conducted a tour contest, offering a tour to Bermuda for those in various districts securing the largest number of subscriptions to their paper. The contest was concluded and the most interest it has aroused has been since its conclusion as to the personnel of the party who would make the trip. One of the stipulations was that the person securing the largest number of subscriptions should in addition to securing a ticket for themselves have the selection of a chaperone for the party, who would also have a free trip.

Mrs. W. Tom Murchie of this city was the leader among the winners of the tours and the party was to have started yesterday. First of all Mrs. Murchie, as the result of some arrangement, named Mrs. A. E. Hanson as the chaperone for the party, then she changed her mind and named her sister, Mrs. Martin, who came on here from the West to make the trip. Then the Mail Company management declined to hand over the tickets for Mrs. Murchie and her chaperone to the former, and yesterday she entered an action for damages and had an injunction issued restraining the Mail Company from issuing the two tickets to anybody either than herself. The result was the start of the trip had to be postponed until today.

This morning Judge Barry declined to cancel the injunction, but the Mail Company would not issue the two tickets to Mrs. Murchie, but would give her only that for herself. Mrs. Murchie declined to accept the single ticket and did not start on the tour. Mrs. Hanson, however, accompanied the party when they left this evening, but not as the official chaperone, and only as a private individual.

Mrs. Murchie's action for damages will now be carried on by her attorneys, Messrs. Crocket and Guthrie.

WANTS FRIENDSHIP OF COUNTRIES OF SOUTH AMERICA

Madrid, Dec. 29.—King Alfonso being desirous further to promote friendly relations between Spain and all the countries of North and South America has created a mission for this purpose. Direction of the mission will be confined to Senor Don Juan Riano Y Gayangos, the Spanish minister to the United States.

UNJUST ACTION OF LATE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CORRECTED

Special to The Standard:

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—Hon. Colonel Sam Hughes has by a militia order issued today corrected the wrong done in 1904 to Colonel R. W. Gregory of the 2nd Dragoons, St. Catherines. It will be remembered that at the time of the former government's quarrel with Lord Dundonald, harsh treatment was meted out to Colonel Gregory, who despite Lord Dundonald's support, or because of it, lost his place in the militia. The new head of the militia department has restored Colonel Gregory to the militia as an officer on the reserve.

STREET RAILWAY SYSTEM IN NEW YORK SOLD AT AUCTION

New York, N. Y., Dec. 29.—The old Metropolitan Street Railway Company owning 161 miles of New York's surface system and capitalized before it went into the hands of a receiver in 1907, at $139,665,000, was sold at auction today for $12,000,000 to the company's four and five per cent bondholders. The value of the company's property is estimated at $120,000,000.

Thistle Roy Stranded On Cape Lookout

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 29.—A despatch to the Maritime Exchange from Beaufort, N. C., says: "British steamer Thistle Roy from Tampa via Galveston, Dec. 21, for Liverpool and Cork, stranded on Cape Lookout shoal; weather fine; will save ship."

THINKS ELECTION LAWS IN MAINE ARE TOO UNCERTAIN

Augusta, Me., Dec. 29.—A special session of the Maine legislature to consider the liquor law and revise the election laws, was announced tonight in a proclamation issued by Gov. Frederick W. Plaisted. The session is to begin March 20. In the proclamation Gov. Plaisted refers to the difficulties encountered in tabulating the vote in the last state election on the question of repealing the constitutional amendment prohibiting the sale of liquor. The proclamation says:

"Our laws relating to the conduct of elections, the making of returns to the governor and council, the tabulating of such returns and the declaration of the result thereof are uncertain in their meaning and inadequate in substance."

PROPOSE TO FORM CANADIAN BRANCH OF ASSOCIATION

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—Efforts are being made to form a Canadian branch of the Empire Parliamentary Association the foundations of which were laid during the visit of the Overseas Parliamentary delegates to England at the time of the Coronation. The object is to provide some permanent machinery, to provide more ready exchange of information, and to facilitate closer understanding and more frequent intercourse between members of the various British parliaments.

At the time the several parliamentary delegations were present in London this plan was talked over, and committees were appointed to explain the proposal to members of their respective parliaments. The Canadian committee consisted of H. B. Ames, Hon. George E. Foster, Senator Casgrain, Hugh Guthrie and T. B. Warburton. The objects of the organization are to provide facilities for travel, information and entertainment of members when visiting in different parts of the Empire. The announcement of the formation of the United Kingdom branch was received here today.

There are two presidents, the Rt. Hon. Earl Loreburn, lord chancellor, and the Rt. Hon. J.W. Lowther, Speaker of the House. Temporary offices have been opened at the Imperial Institute.

"DAKOTA DANN" HAS A HUNCH THAT HE IS LONG LOST SON

Boston, Dec. 29.—The famous Russell will case, which when a decision was given in the probate court of Middlesex county two years ago, had become the longest action of the kind on record in that court, is to be reopened. State Senator Leslie A. Simpson, of Dickinson, N. D., counsel for the North Dakota plainsman, who claims to be the long lost son of the late Daniel Russell of Melrose, and entitled to a share of the latter's estate, valued at $750,000, arrived in this city today, prepared to push his appeal to the Supreme Judicial Court from the decision of Judge Lawton two years ago.

The decision, which followed more than 100 days of actual testimony taking, was in effect that "Dakota Dann" as the claimant has come to be known is an imposter and instead of being Daniel Blake Russell, is really James D. Rouseau, of Malone, N. Y. While "Dakota Dan" through his attorneys continues his fight for what he claims as his birthright, there is living in the Russell homestead in Melrose a man whom William C. Russell, the eldest son of the testator has recognized as his long lost brother. Daniel Blake Russell, this man is familiarly known as "Fresno Dan" having come near the close of the celebrated will trial from Fresno Calif, where he had been living under another name.

FIRE QUARTER MILE DISTANT STARTED WORSTED MILL BLAZE

Skowhegan, Me., Dec. 29—Fire started by embers from a burning dwelling house a quarter of a mile distant, destroyed the dye house of the Marston worsted mill today. The mill was damaged by water and smoke, and will be shut down for a few weeks while repairs are made, the 250 employes taking an enforced vacation. The direct loss on the mill property is $50,000.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETING OF CANADIAN CLUB FEDERATION

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, Dec. 29.—The first meeting to arrange for the convention of the Federation of Canadian Clubs of Canada here next year, was held tonight at the office of Dr. W. S. Carter, chief superintendent of education, who is president of the Federation of Canadian Clubs. The convention will take place during September.

STEAMER DELAYED.

St. Michaels, Dec. 29.—The new British steamer Glendens from Bremen for Mobile, has put in here with damage to her decks and boats lost.

DEFEAT OF ITALIANS BY TURKS

Battle Lasted Twenty-four Hours in Which Italians were Completely Routed and Half Number Killed.

THREE ITALIAN OFFICERS ARE KILLED

Washington, Dec. 29.—A twenty-four hour battle in which the Turkish troops defeated the Italian force, killing half of it in the rout, is described in an official message from Constantinople, made public at the Turkish embassy tonight. The message was transmitted to the Imperial Ministry of War at Constantinople by the commander of the Turkish troops from Tobruk, Tripoli, under date of Dec. 22.

The report follows:

"We have attacked the fortified post of the enemy. Notwithstanding the fire from the warships and fort batteries, we entered the fort and the garrison has been annihilated. Ammunitions, provisions, warm material and a quick-firing gun have been carried into our camp. In its forward march one of our wings cut off the retreat of the enemy, who fled toward the coast. During the retreat the enemy lost half their number.

The battle lasted all day and night. Among the killed were three officers of the enemy. Our losses were seven killed and a few wounded. The Cheikh Meri, who with his five sons came at the head of his tribe, is among the dead. The courage of our officers and soldiers is exemplary. Lieutenant Nedjib Bey was the first to enter the fort. He secured the quick-firing guns and carried away one into our camp.

MONCTON BOARD OF TRADE WANTS RAILWAY EXTENSION

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, Dec. 29.—Some important matters were discussed at tonight's meeting of the Board of Trade.

There was hearty approval of the notice of motion, given in the House of Commons by E. N. Rhodes, M. P., for Cumberland, asking the Dominion government to give more assistance to immigration to the Maritime Provinces, and Premier Flemming and Hon. H. R. Emmerson, M. P., for Westmoreland, were asked to co-operate with Mr. Rhodes.

A resolution was also passed asking the Dominion government to look into the feasibility of extending the Moncton and Buctouche Railway to Rexton, and putting on a line of steamers between that point and P. E. Island.

The question of building a line of railway by the shore route from Painsec to Pictou, will be taken up at a future meeting of the board.

CABINET BREAKS PREVIOUS RECORDS AT CLOSE OF YEAR

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—The Borden cabinet is winding up the year with display of industry which has put all previous exploits in the shade. The ministers were down at their offices early, and went through their correspondence at a pace that broke the speed limit. At eleven they assembled in their council chamber. Few people saw them after that. They lunched in the historic council chamber, taking their tea and sandwiches on the edge of the round table.

They were still working at six o'clock. At a quarter past six they went away to dinner, and at eight were back in their council chamber. The night sitting lasted till close on to midnight, when the council adjourned to meet again tomorrow morning. The whole day was spent in the consideration of estimates, to be submitted to parliament when the House reassembles.

RUSSIANS NOW IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF CITY OF TABRIZ

Tabriz, Dec. 29.—The Russian occupation of this city is now complete and practically all the members of the constitutional party have disappeared. The banks and European merchants will resume business tomorrow, after passing nine days in a state of siege.

No precise figures as to the casualties sustained by the Russians and the Persians are available, but it is estimated that the Russian loss amounted to from 100 to 200 men. The mortality among the native non-combatants has not been large and the reported atrocities by the troops on both sides are ungrounded.

RIGHESON CASE HAS NEW PHASE

Report Published that Arrangements May be Made to Have Pastor Plead Guilty—Denied by District Attorney.

IS LINK IN THE EVIDENCE MISSING?

Montreal, Dec. 29.—The Star tonight publishes the following despatch from Boston:

"Persistent rumors that the Richeson case would never go to trial in spite of the preparations that are being made, were heard in the court house today. It is believed by many attorneys who are in touch with the case, that for the good of the public a settlement may be reached that will obviate a trial.

"The rumors arise from a belief that there is a link missing in the chain of evidence, which it is claimed, the District Attorney has woven around Richeson, and also for the apparent failure of Attorney Morse to make certain movements in the case. It is thought that at a long conference between Chief Justice Aiken and the District Attorney, a few days ago, the question of compromise was discussed and that then recent preparation for a trial were only preliminary steps to some startling move on the part of the District Attorney. It was practically decided today, that should the case go to trial, it should be held in room 454. This room is on the fourth floor facing on Pemberton Square and is ten feet longer than any other jury court room.

Principal Witness.

"District Attorney Pelletier and Assistant District Attorney Lavelle will go to Brockton this afternoon to meet Mrs. Lizzie Linnell, mother of Avis Linnell. Mrs. Linnell will be one of the principal witnesses for the government.

"W. A. Morse, counsel for Clarence V. T. Richeson, declared today that Richeson is on the verge of a mental breakdown. Richeson is weak mentally and physically, said Morse. 'I called upon him in his cell at ... of importance, but gave up in despair. He was in such an extreme condition that he could not talk coherently. I cannot see how he can possibly be put on trial Jan. 15th.'"

Pelletier's Statement.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 29.—Reports that an agreement has been reached between District Attorney Pelletier and counsel for the defence, by which Rev. Mr. Richeson is to plead guilty to second degree murder, were emphatically denied by the district attorney in a statement issued tonight. "There is only one agreement possible," Mr. Pelletier says, "and that is a plea of guilty to the charge of murder in the first degree."

The district attorney again declares that the accused minister is in good physical and mental condition, and will be able to stand trial on Jan. 15, the date set. "It may be of interest to know," the statement adds, "that for breakfast today, Rev. Mr. Richeson had two eggs and a pint of milk, and for dinner a quahaug stew. He sat up in bed and seemed to be in the best spirits."

IMPORT OF WOOD PULP TO STATES IS RESTRICTED

Washington, D. C., Dec. 29.—While foreign nations are clamoring for the free entry of wood pulp and paper into the United States on an equality with Canada, the treasury department today decreased the supply which can be imported from Canada without duty through an order relating to the Indian lands of Ontario. In future wood pulp or paper made from the woods of these lands, must pay duty because of the Canadian regulation prohibiting the exportation of wood cut from Ontario Indian lands for the manufacture of wood pulp.

This places these lands in the same class as the Crown lands upon which exportation restrictions are placed, and is in accordance with the agreement with Canada.

DECIDE UPON THE OFFICIAL FLAG FOR CANADIAN NAVY

Special to The Standar

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—The government has decided upon a flag for the Canadian navy and a description of the bunting will be published in the Canada Gazette tomorrow. The order is that "All ships of the Royal Canadian Navy shall fly at the stern the white ensign as the symbol of the authority of the Crown, and at the jack staff the distinctive flag of the Dominion of Canada, such distinctive flag being the blue ensign with the arms of the Dominion inset in the flag. The white pennant will be flown at the masthe